

# Government no longer likely to impose basic curriculum

Government apparently has decided against imposing a core curriculum on all schools. Instead, Miss Jackson, a junior education minister, indicated yesterday that it is likely to ask local authorities to prepare the framework of a curriculum and to leave teachers to work out the details.

## Teachers expected to work out details

Tim Devlin, Education Correspondent  
The Government is not likely to impose guidelines on a core curriculum to be taught in schools as a result of a great debate on education. Instead, it appeared yesterday, it is likely to ask local education authorities to prepare a framework of a core curriculum and to leave the details to teachers.

At the seventh of the planned eight regional conferences on education, Miss Jackson, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, said in London: "The detail of how should be worked out, as well as all the implications and problems and working out at local level, should be done by teachers who are going to have to implement it at local level".

She denied a suggestion by Mr. Max Morris of the National Union of Teachers, that her department had completed the first draft of its consultative report. She said the report would be published before the regional conferences began. His view is likely to be among educationists.

Mr. Samuel Fisher, chairman of the National Union of Teachers' Education Committee, said: "Heaven save us from the idea of the syllabus to be interpreted by civil servants in the DES".

Much of value could come from consulting teachers, but if they were not consulted, a common core curriculum of subjects subject areas to be taught in schools would not be possible.

Mr. Alan Stephenson, secretary of the University Entrance and School Examinations Council, University of London, suggested that a group of educationists, employers and parents should decide on half the total syllabus to be covered by each examination board. It would be a national syllabus guaranteeing comparability between boards.

That plan is being considered by the examination board and the Middlesex Regional Examination Board.

Mr. Gerald Fowler, a former Labour Minister of State in charge of higher education, said it was nonsense to expect a three-year teacher training course to prepare anyone for teaching, particularly in a deprived urban area.

The Government should set aside specific grants for inservice training and develop a coherent programme to give assistance and guidance to teachers during their first years of teaching.

Earlier, Mr. Michael Marland, headmaster of Woodberry Down School, north London, had suggested that every education authority should set up teams of independent evaluators to assess school work.

He also suggested that curriculum assessment by grading, so successful in music and swimming, could be used for modern languages. "You should not have to wait until you are 16 for an examination. Could we not have interpreters' badges grade one, and so on, for children of younger age?"

• Lenient marking, page 2

# Communist interference is alleged in Chapple election

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor  
The Communist Party has been accused of politically motivated intervention in the election of a general secretary of the electricians' union. A union inquiry has concluded that Communists directed the campaign of a candidate who tried unsuccessfully last March to unseat Mr. Frank Chapple.

The allegations are contained in a committee of inquiry's confidential report to the executive council of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union. Mr. Bert Ramelson, the party's industrial organizer, last night dismissed the charges as "a tissue of falsities".

The report says that it is "not unreasonable" to draw a parallel between the Communist support for Mr. Harold Best, a member of the EETPU executive, and backing given to other left-approved candidates for high office in the past, particularly in the late 1950s, when in the view of the High Court the union was "controlled by Communists and pliant sympathizers".

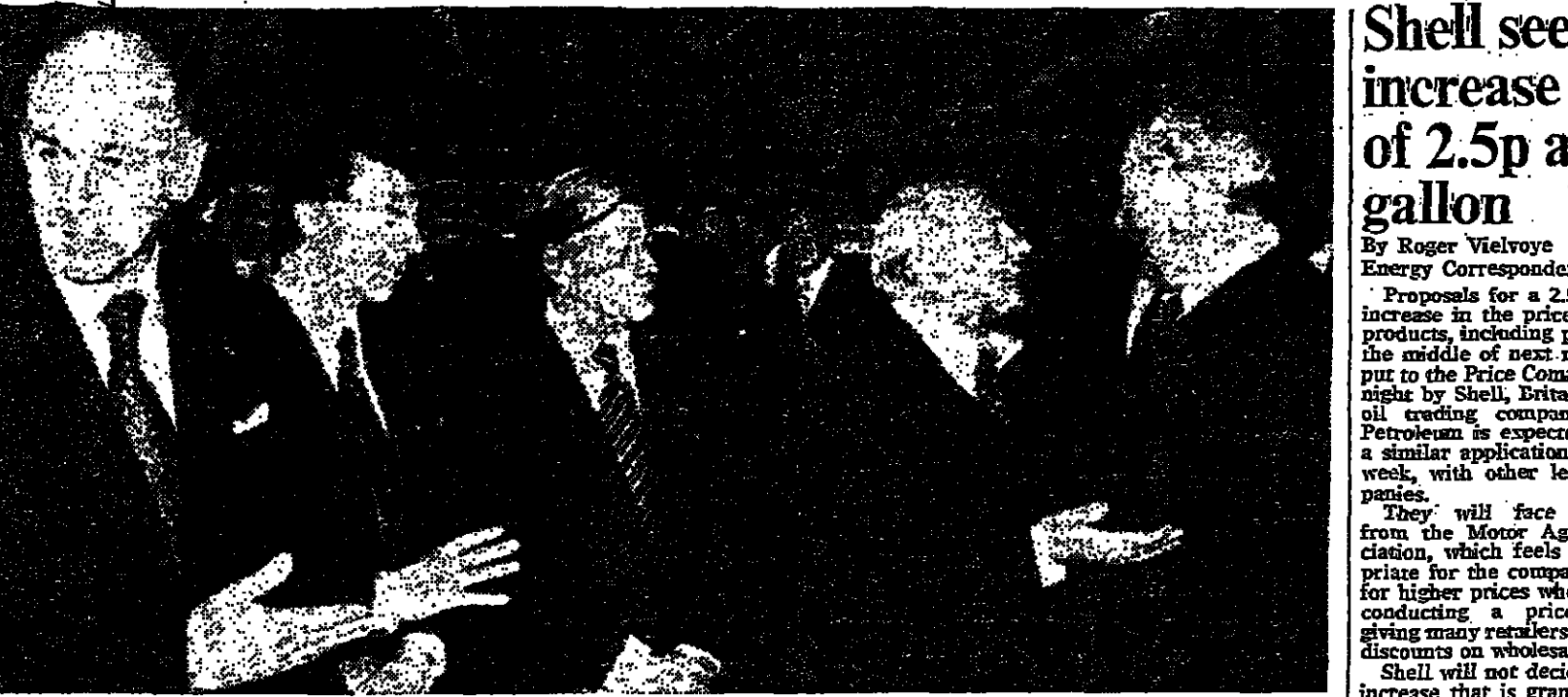
The committee recounts that Mr. Best was elected to the executive in 1973 with nominations from only six branches and on a minority vote in his region, Yorkshire. But in March, 1976, when he stood for the office of general secretary, he got 97 branch nominations from all parts of the country and a national vote of 24,278.

"We can only assume that the sudden increase in his vote was by reason of the decision of the Communist Party to support his candidature", the report states.

"A microcosm of the whole operation in our view can be found in the situation that prevailed on the quarter night of the London central branch when nominations for the office of general secretary were taken and Brother Best was in attendance."

"There was a letter read from Brother John Byrne, of Liverpool, then a well known Communist activist in the union, who informed the branch that he was not seeking nomination but was supporting Brother Best. A discussion took place regarding a meeting which had been held with view to obtaining one candidate of the so-called left in that election."

"This was not successful because any student of politics continued on page 2, col 2"



EEC leaders in Rome included President Giscard d'Estaing, left, Mr. Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, Mr. den Uyl, the Dutch Prime Minister, and Mr. Callaghan.

# French change policy on summit role for EEC

From Michael Horvath, Rome, March 25  
Mr. Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission, appeared virtually assured here tonight of an invitation to the economic summit in London in May. The breakthrough came after a change of policy by President Giscard d'Estaing of France, who earlier had opposed the Commission's taking part.

Speaking in a television interview after the first day of a meeting of EEC heads of state and government, the French President said: "If there are questions on which the Community has decided beforehand to have a common position, such as the North-South dialogue of rich and poor nations, then it could be possible for the Commission to attend."

The precise form which the Commission's participation should take was being discussed by the EEC leaders over a working dinner at the Palazzo Barberini, where their meeting is being held. A formula proposed by Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, would allow Mr. Jenkins to be called on to intervene at appropriate moments.

There clearly remained a lot of work to be done on defining precisely which items on the Downing Street summit's agenda qualify as "Community matters" justifying a contribution from Mr. Jenkins. Legally, anything directly impinging on the external commercial relations of the Nine is generally considered to fall within Community competence.

The sole question remaining here tonight was whether the smaller EEC countries, led by the Dutch and the Belgians, who had been pressing for Mr. Jenkins' full participation in the summit, would accept the proposed compromise. There was every sign, however, that they would be content with having won the substance of their case.

All along, the contention in Brussels and The Hague, and somewhat less vociferously in Dublin and Copenhagen, had been that the four big EEC states should not attend restricted international conferences from which their smaller partners were excluded without some arrangement being made for a Community interest to be represented.

Hitherto, that view had always been challenged by the French, who have usually sought to check any attempt by the Commission to play an independent political role. President Giscard d'Estaing also felt that the intimacy appropriate to the periodic economic summits would be destroyed if the number of participants became too large.

The French President was careful to emphasize tonight that the European Commission's presence in London would not in any sense imply its attendance "as an additional state".

Earlier, Mr. Callaghan and his colleagues had assembled on the Capitol to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome. President Giovanni Leone of Italy told the gathering that one of the main achievements of the treaty had been "to give the peoples of Western Europe the certainty that the idea of 'economic nations' was once and for all past history".

• Cut-price butter plan, page 3

# Atom power falls foul of the grave robbers

From Our Correspondent, Rome, March 25  
Two anonymous grave robbers may have succeeded, where all else has so far failed, in stopping the construction of a giant nuclear power station at Montalto di Castro on the coast of Lazio, north of Rome.

The tombardieri, who illegally excavate ancient tombs and sell their contents on the clandestine market, have managed to scotch the plans for a 1,000 MW EC Euratom tomb right on the site where the power station is to be built.

The discovery, after a search lasting several days, overjoyed the local residents, nature lovers, scientists and other people who have so far campaigned in vain, with protests, parliamentary questions, legal action and a 10,000 strong demonstration last Sunday, to stop the project.

The discovery of archaeological remains of importance, in fact, obliges the local superintendence of antiquities by law to forbid any building whatever in the area.

Prince Nicola Caracciolo, a spokesman for a local conservation group, said that they would formally apply for the ban to be imposed. He pointed out that as Euratom graves were never found singly, it was probably part of a necropolis. It may well be part of the as yet undiscovered city of Vulci, he said.

# Progress on tobacco substitutes

By Our Social Policy Correspondent  
The Independent Scientific Committee on Smoking and Health (the Hunter committee) has reached "certain conclusions" about the marketing of tobacco substitutes and additives.

It said after a meeting in London yesterday that government ministers and the appropriate companies would be told of its decisions as soon as possible. It was unwilling to say more in the meantime.

The committee is thought to have decided to approve the use of the cellulose-based tobacco substitutes, Crol and New Smoking Material. Both have been shown in laboratory tests to produce fewer harmful substances than some forms of natural tobacco.

There will be strict conditions attached to their use, including long-term monitoring of their effects on smokers and restrictions on the advertising claims that can be made.

# PR system likely in Europe poll

By Our Political Correspondent  
When the European Parliament votes its Bill for direct elections in 1978, it will be a major recommendation from the Cabinet on the voting system to be used.

It is expected that the Government will recommend the single transferable vote system, a form of proportional representation, but ministers, like Labour backbenchers, will have a free vote.

As happened over the EEC referendum, the doctrine of collective responsibility will be suspended.

The Government's White Paper "with green edges", listing the various possibilities for conducting the direct elections in May or June, 1978, will be published towards the end of next week.

Mr. John, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a Commons debate yesterday that when the Government came forward, after consultations, with a final recommendation on the method of election it would take full account of the Liberal Party's views.

Parliamentary report, page 20

# Liberals may abstain in Tory defence move

By George Clark, Political Correspondent  
The first test of the Liberals' arrangement to preserve the Labour Government in office on what Mr. Steel, the Liberal leader, regards as his terms will come in the vote on the Defence Estimates in the Commons on Monday.

But according to party officials, tonight, when the critical Conservative amendment is put to the vote the Liberals will abstain.

The Government motion merely asks the House to take note of the Estimates.

The Conservative amendment asks the House to express its regret "that the Government's defence policy has resulted in our Forces being seriously deprived of modern equipment necessary to maintain, with the other members of the North Atlantic alliance, sufficient national capability to deter acts of aggression, to sustain an effective fighting force in the event of actual hostilities, and thereby to strengthen our influence in formulating the policies of the alliance".

Mr. Emyln Hooson, MP for Montgomeryshire and chairman of the Welsh Liberal Party, who is the spokesman on defence, will have the awkward task of explaining why the Liberals cannot go with the Government on that challenge.

He is expected to give his party's support for reductions in expenditure which are to be achieved by cutting the administrative "tail" of the fighting Services. But there are reductions on other projects which the Liberals believe will seriously affect Britain's ability to meet obligations under NATO and which are being made "on an ad hoc basis and without proper discussion".

That could be regarded as the Liberals taking a typically half-committed attitude or as a means of bringing pressure to bear on the Government to concede closer consultation to them on defence matters.

In the immediate aftermath of the accommodation arrived at this week, however, it will be seen by some as confirmation of cynical Conservative forecasts that the forced marriage between Labour and Liberals will soon end in divorce.

With the Conservatives on the lookout for any sign that the Lib-Lab pact is likely to collapse in the long run, Mr. Hooson's task will be difficult.

When the moment comes for the Government to fend off the challenge from its own left wing, Mr. Callaghan can be more sure about the Liberals' support, although a final decision on their attitude is being left until Monday.

That, it was explained yesterday, is being kept to the last moment not by design but by force of circumstances. The party has been so busy in negotiations with the Government over their general working arrangements that it has not been able to settle the exact voting intentions.

There would seem to be no reason why the Liberals should not vote with the Government on the motion to take note of the defence estimates, while the Conservatives abstain.

Labour left-wingers certainly intend to press their amendment. That seeks to hold the Government to its election manifesto commitment that it would reduce the proportion of Britain's resources devoted to arms to that of the other large NATO powers.

They claim that reduction would release hundreds of millions of pounds for socially useful spending. In the amendment they call for immediate plans for the movement of workers and resources from arms production to other types of manufacture.

Mr. Grimond, the former Liberal leader, is believed to be among those Liberals who have misgivings about the Government's proposed defence cuts and would therefore advise the party to abstain when the vote on the opposition motion is called rather than to vote with the Government.

Labour left-wingers will, of course, see that as an example of an attempt by the Liberals to influence the Labour Government to adopt Conservative-oriented policies.

Devolution plans, page 2  
George Hutchinson, page 12  
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# £1.46m loss by Express newspapers

By Richard Allen, Financial Staff  
Beaverbrook Newspapers, publishers of the Daily Express, Sunday Express and Evening Standard, lost £1.46m in the first half of its current year, mainly because of its decision to delay cover price increases for as long as possible.

The loss for the period ended December 31 compared with a deficit of £202,000 in the first half of 1976/77 when Beaverbrook went on to make profits of £1.4m for the whole year.

Despite newspaper price increases of 20 per cent in May and August last year, Beaverbrook decided to hold prices of its newspapers in an effort to protect circulation figures. In consequence the group forecast a significant loss for the first six months but the actual deficit, much greater than most outside, stock market expectations.

Cover prices and some advertising rates have since been increased as a result of a further newspaper price increase in January which is expected to cost the group an extra £4m this year.

The directors say that results from the Daily Express since its January relaunch in tabloid form are very pleasing and the group is confident that it made a wise decision.

The paper is said by the board to be showing a strong circulation and improved readership profile while taking record advertising bookings.

Meanwhile, Beaverbrook has now concluded the sale of its Tolgate House development in Bristol for £5m and this will produce a profit of around £1.75m.

The £1.46m interim loss was struck after a trading loss of £914,000 on turnover 10 per cent higher at £45.7m and depreciation charges of £540,000. The group passed the interim dividend for the fourth year in succession.

The results disappointed the stock market where the non-voting "A" shares dipped 5p at one point before recovering to close 3 1/2p down at 25p. The ordinary shares eased 5p to 145p.

Beaverbrook shares have been fairly volatile in recent weeks on talk of takeover possibilities, enhanced this year by the news that Sir James Goldsmith's Cavenham group had bought 35 per cent of the "A" capital from News International. This holding represents just under 30 per cent of the total capital.

There has also been speculation that Beaverbrook and Associated Newspapers, publishers of the Daily Mail and Evening News in London, might consider some form of merger.

# Turkey hit by earthquake

Ankara, March 25.—An earthquake struck eastern Turkey today killing at least 20 people. Officials said the toll was expected to rise.

Severe damage was caused in and around the small town of Palu, but fears of a greater disaster receded as a clearer picture began to emerge of the situation in the remote area more than 400 miles east of Ankara.

The earthquake struck while people slept, bringing down some flimsy homes and damaging many more. Nine hours later, Turkish radio said Army communications had succeeded in establishing contact with outlying villages, but full casualty figures were not available immediately.

An earthquake killed more than 5,000 people in eastern Turkey last November.—Reuter.



The greatest French impressionist ever... goes into action

# ans get police escort past hospital pickets

There were violent incidents yesterday as members of the Transport and General Workers' Union continued to blockade hospitals in Surrey, preventing the delivery of food and other supplies in support of a demand for the reinstatement of 32 dismissed domestics. The police were called in to sort delivery vans through the lines. Union officials led on Mr. Eynals, Secretary of State for Social Services, as he drove through the area's main casualty list.

Sixty consultants issued a statement condemning union members and saying that patients may have to stop eating even cancer patients emergency cases.

At Epson District Hospital windows and headlights of milk wagon were smashed. Pickets, the driver managed to get through when he was hit with a police escort.

Police also escorted a convoy of vans which drove through the lines at Epson, where the health authorities said they had been given 24 hours by the union to evacuate.

Mr. William Harper, one of the union's shop stewards, said: "We have stopped all supplies going through to get a quick end to the dispute."

# Ford of Britain boosts profits to record £121m

Ford of Britain had a record year in 1976 with a nine-fold jump in pre-tax profits to £121.6m. The group's exports from Britain rose up by 10 per cent. Mr. Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has authorized a £30m loan to British Leyland, bringing the total to £45m advanced by £15m, including £30m advanced by the National Enterprise Board, out of £100m approved by Parliament last August under the now threatened Ryder plan. Page 17

# Pension case fails

Three pensioners lost a test case challenging the Government's formula for calculating inflation-linked pension increases. Had they won, the Government would have been forced to compensate for past inflation, which would have meant paying out £500m to pensioners and other claimants. Law Report, page 4

# Disciples 'saved'

A San Francisco judge has ordered five young adult members of the Unification Church, led by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, to be handed over to their parents for 30 days of "deprogramming". Page 4

# Kurds take hostages

Two Frenchmen and an Algerian have been captured by Kurdish rebels in Iraq and are being held hostage together with four Poles seized last year. The Kurds demand as ransom the return of deported Kurdish families and the freeing of political prisoners. Page 4

# Mr Ram joins the Desai Cabinet

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, leader of India's Congress for Democracy, has joined the new Cabinet formed by Mr. Desai after the Prime Minister made a personal appeal to the veteran politician. Mr. George Fernandes, the socialist leader, has also joined. Page 4

# Peking policy stated

China has no prospect of its ideological quarrel with the Soviet Union being resolved, a Peking Foreign Ministry official said in an interview. But the Russians are not expected to attack at least not before settling the account with their main enemies, the United States. Page 4

# Back to Iron Age

Six couples and three children were yesterday learning the art of survival in an "Iron Age" commune in Dorset which is to be their home for a year. BBC cameras will film their progress. Page 3

# Hanged pupil: A public school pupil found hanged had been bullied an inquest was told

Madrid: Former Spanish Foreign Minister resigns from the Popular Party in surprise political development. Page 3

# Rawalpindi: Mr Bhutto rearrests his opponents and forces are given shoot-to-kill orders as Pakistan tension rises

# Virus death toll now 16 at old people's home

The death of a man aged 91 at Earsdon Grange old people's home at Montserrat, Truce and West, brought the toll to 16, but council officials expressed hopes that the effects of the virus responsible may now be waning. Page 3

# Features, pages 6-12

George Hutchinson assesses the Liberal deal and Mr. Steel's John Gower talks to Leonard Bernstein: Richard Stratton on table tennis: D. L. P. Bartley remembers communism and the thirties: Samdray Review. Leader, page 13	Letters: On Liberal support for the Government, from Professor F. E. G. Cox, and others; and on the "Panorama" school, from Miss M. Turnbull, and others
Leading articles: India: Palestine: Bermuda agreement. Arts, page 9	Records reviewed by John Chissell. John Hirst, William Almon and Stanley Sadie. Obituary, page 14
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Business News, pages 17-21	Stock markets: The FT index closed 2.1 lower over the week at 415.1. The new government stock attracted a brisk demand
Personal investment and finance: Takeover activity in the investment trust sector: more answers to readers' questions on taxation: how the stock market took the week's events	Parliament: 20. Record Review: 8. Sale Room: 6. Science: 10. Services: 14. Shopping: 13. Snow report: 15
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## HOME NEWS

# Liberal plan calls for Scottish assembly to get most of royalties from North Sea oil

From Martin Huckerby  
Glasgow

Most North Sea oil royalties and the proceeds from personal income tax in Scotland would go to the Scottish Assembly under the Liberal Party's devolution plan, which was presented to the Prime Minister earlier this week.

Details of the 28-page memorandum were published yesterday by the Liberals, and Mr Russell Johnston, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Party, said in Glasgow that he thought the proposals would be acceptable.

Nevertheless, the grant of widespread economic powers to a Scottish Assembly would certainly meet serious opposition from Labour backbenchers.

There is little likelihood that the Government, even with the votes of the 13 Liberal MPs, could hope to push through a new devolution Bill proposing such powers.

However, the document will be seen by many as a basis for negotiation between the party and the Government as part of the new agreement. The memorandum calls for a Scottish devolution Bill for Scotland and Wales, and then concentrates on Scotland.

It proposes a general conferment of legislative powers on the Scottish Assembly, with certain limitations on the exercise of those powers, and a constitutional court that would rule on any disputed assembly legislation.

A Scottish "Treasury" would receive the proceeds of personal income tax paid by residents in Scotland. The assembly would have the power to vary the basic rate of tax on personal incomes.

The Treasury would have a yield from the royalties on oil brought ashore in Scotland. The

rate would be 12½ per cent, and would not be varied.

The document suggests that out of the estimated United Kingdom royalties between 1980 and 1985, at an average of £650m a year, Scotland could receive £400m a year.

Proceeds from income tax are estimated at £1,000m, which would give the assembly £1,400m a year overall, similar to the £1,300m block grant proposed by the Government, but enabling the assembly to have independence with regard to revenue.

The Liberals accept that their scheme is likely to produce administrative difficulties and expense initially, but say "This is a price which has to be paid for the political advantages of fiscal independence and responsibility."

A large part of the document, drawn up by an unnamed group of Liberals, is devoted to a draft of a Scottish Bill of Rights. Mr Johnston, MP for Inverness, said the party's proposals were practical and possible, and would not do such violence to the Government's own proposals that they would be impossible to contemplate.

He seemed optimistic about the prospects for success, and said that rebel Labour MPs in the North-east and North-west of England, who had an intrinsic suspicion of the objectives of devolution, would support such a revised devolution Bill.

But it is difficult to believe that those MPs will not view the plan with more distaste than they viewed the Government's original Bill. Our Political Correspondent writes: There is a willingness by the Government to use the proposals as a basis for progress towards a deal.

In consultation with the

Liberals and nationalists, the Government has yet to decide whether it will continue with one Bill covering both Scotland and Wales or have two measures. But one suggestion has caused astonishment at Westminster.

Both Mr Foot, the leader of the House, who is in charge of the legislation, and Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, are giving the impression that if there is a majority in the Commons, formed by a coalition of Labour, Liberal and nationalist votes in favour of continuing the Bill (or Bills) from one session of Parliament to the next, the will of the Commons must prevail. But the Government would also have to get a resolution for the continuation of the Bill passed in the Lords.

It would be a constitutional innovation, having immense significance for opposition parties, if such a move was approved on a government Bill. It would take away the only real power the backbenchers have to prevent the executive putting through contentious measures.

If the Conservatives opposed such a "carry over" motion in the Commons, it is almost certain that Conservative peers would refuse to consent to a similar motion in the Lords. On the evidence of opinions expressed yesterday they would be joined by several Labour peers.

The best estimate now being made is that it will require consultations until the summer to hammer out an agreed measure on devolution between the Government, the Liberals and the nationalists, and that legislation will have to wait until next session for further progress to be made.

## Protestant call to Mr Powell to quit seat

From Christopher Walker  
Belfast

An estimated attempt to erode Mr Enoch Powell's position in Northern Ireland politics will be made next week by hard-line "loyalists" resentful of his abstention during the "no confidence" division at Westminster.

The three Unionist MPs who refused to vote against the Government learnt yesterday that they could face the threat of expulsion from the United Ulster Unionist Coalition.

The move was made by the Rev William Beattie, a close political associate of the Rev Ian Paisley and deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party. He announced that Mr Powell, Mr John Carson, and Mr Harold McCusker will be asked to appear before the coalition's steering committee on Tuesday to explain their action.

Mr Beattie said that if a satisfactory answer was not forthcoming he could be pressing for the expulsion of all three from the coalition.

The formal attempt to discipline the MPs reflects considerable grass roots anger among Protestants, which is aimed particularly at Mr Powell, whose political style and apparent pro-Labour sympathies have lost him much loyalist support since he was welcomed as MP for Down, South, in 1974.

In his statement yesterday Mr Beattie urged Mr Powell to stand down the next election, claiming that otherwise it could be lost to a republican.

Mr Powell was the only one of the three abstaining MPs not to attend yesterday's annual meeting of the Unionist coalition's governing body of his official Unionist party.

## Let Mr Freud talk his way out of this without deviation or repetition

### Lib-Lab alliance raises Tory hopes in Ely

From Robert Parker  
Ely

The Conservative Party in Ely, the constituency which was taken from them by Mr Clement Freud for the Liberals in the 1973 by-election, are hubbubbing with confidence. They are certain that the effects of the Liberal deal with the Labour government this week will guarantee the seat being returned to the "rightful" owners.

One Conservative supporter in Ely yesterday said: "I should like to see Clement Freud talk his way out of this one now without hesitation, deviation or repetition," referring to the popular radio quiz *Just a Minute* in which Mr Freud takes part.

In the public houses and shops of March, Cambridge-shire, there seemed at best to be general disappointment with the Liberal deal, or at worst something approaching anger.

Mr Nigel Frary, the manager of a public house, said: "I think the whole deal is a complete sell-out. I have never voted Labour in my life and I never shall. How do you think I feel now that the Liberals have kept Labour in power?"

"If there had been a general election I would have voted Liberal again, but not now. I shall vote Conservative next time."

Although Mrs Anne Sharp, the Liberal agent, emphatically states that the Lib-Lab deal has had little noticeable effect on local elections, a view also shared by the Labour Party, the Conservatives believe the deal has had a big effect. Of the 10 or so people I spoke to in March and Ely yesterday it does appear that many Liberal voters are rather unhappy.

Mr Andrew Varney, the agent for Dr Tom Stuttford, the Conservative candidate, says that the Isle of Ely is basically anti-socialist.

Although the Liberal deal will in election, they got only 21 per cent of the poll in October, 1974, and 16.8 per cent in February, 1974. Dr Stuttford says the area is "an egalitarian Conservative seat."

Mr Stanley Smith, chairman of the Wisbech Labour group, said he does not feel that the Liberals have suffered greatly by the deal. "Like us, I suppose they feel some disappointment. But I am not sure they are aware of any great reaction against the Liberals in the constituency. If there were a general election now I think it would be a very close fight between the Liberals and the Conservatives."

In the election in October, 1974, the third that Mr Freud had fought in four years, the Liberals took 41.7 per cent of the poll. Dr Stuttford took 36.6 per cent, giving the Lib-erals a majority of 2,885.

Mrs Sharp, the Liberal agent, said: "Mr Freud has tremendous appeal and popularity in the Isle. I have had only three or four anonymous calls from people who said they would not vote Liberal again. I have had lots from people who wanted to meet me about postal votes or to say that David Steel had done the right thing."

The seat has never been a Labour hopeful. Its history before the Second World War was one of Liberal dominance and since the war it has been one of Conservative control.

Only time can really tell whether the Lib-Lab deal will be reason enough for the voters to change their minds. But with the anti-Labour record of the constituency, it is suspected that the Liberals may lose the seat, especially in view of the present small majority.

## Bomb in van kills butcher

From a Staff Reporter  
Belfast

A Roman Catholic butcher from the Irish Republic was killed yesterday and three of his colleagues were injured when a boobytrap bomb exploded in their van on the northern outskirts of Belfast.

He was Mr Larry Potter, aged 25, of Clones, Co Monaghan.

Mr Potter and five other butchers had just got into their van to drive to work at a Belfast meat plant when a 2lb bomb attached to the drive shaft exploded.

The incident occurred at the end of a week which has seen a resurgence of violence by extreme "loyalists". Another victim of the continuing Provisional IRA campaign against locally recruited security forces also died yesterday. He was Mr David Graham, aged 32, a part-time corporal in the Ulster Defence Regiment, who was ambushed two weeks ago.

Still seriously ill in hospital is Karen Maxwell, aged 13, who was shot on Thursday night. Surgeons disclosed that her life had been saved by a St Christopher medal which she wore around her neck. It deflected a bullet fired through the door of a house where she was baby-sitting. The attack is believed to have been the work of "loyalist" gunmen.

## Rail executives cleared of fraud

Mr David Cobbett, aged 48, of The Grange, Srenall, York, and Mr Alexander Boal, of Kent Road, Harrogate, were acquitted yesterday at Glasgow Sheriff Court of defrauding British Rail of £144 in labour and material.

The Sheriff said that the Crown had failed to show that Mr Cobbett, formerly British Rail's Scottish general manager, and Mr Boal, formerly the region's architect, had acted dishonestly by using four senior staff during working hours to plan a central heating system for Mr Cobbett's Glasgow home.

Mr Cobbett is now general manager, Eastern Region, based at York, where Mr Boal also now works.

## Exam papers 'leniently marked'

From Peter Godfrey  
Oxford

Britain's education standards, although consistent, are not high enough to meet the needs of modern society, the annual conference of the Headmasters' Association was told yesterday.

Professor Jack Wrigley, Professor of Education at Reading University, said that an apparent improvement in public examination results was counteracted by more lenient marking.

"As more candidates enter for both CSE and GCE, the calibre is likely to drop slightly, and it is not surprising that such a change is not fully recognized by the examiners," he said.

He referred to an unpublished survey by the Schools Council, which, he said, indicated that the calibre of examination candidates fell slightly between 1968 and 1973, although those at CSE level achieved comparable grades and GCE candidates slightly higher ones in 1973.

A direct comparison could not be strictly accurate, he added, but the research gave no evidence of an improvement in academic achievement.

Standards are not falling but are not good enough for the demands of modern society," he said.

He saw the development of a yardstick to monitor educational levels and the preservation of the public examinations system as vital to the maintenance of standards. He hoped that standards might be enhanced by the present greater stability of the teaching force.

Mr Stuart MacLure, editor of *The Times Educational Supplement*, told the conference that economic factors linked education more closely with employment, but that industry had yet to challenge traditional educational priorities.

"It is a sobering thought that industry's own appreciation of the demands it makes on the young people who enter employment is that for one in three of them the job can be competently carried out with four weeks' training or less."

He also criticized the omission from the present debate on education of "a large minority of the teenage population, including those from immigrant ethnic groups, for whom working employment opportunities make school seem even less relevant."

Senior teachers criticized. Senior teachers were accused yesterday of presenting shabby applications for headteacher jobs (the Press Association reports).

Sometimes their standard of writing was equivalent to that of an "impetuous sixteen-year-old," according to an article in *Education*, the journal of the Association of Education Committees. The writer, an ex-aminer education officer in London, said that up to 85 per cent of applicants for headships were poorly qualified.

The National Union of Teachers said: "There is no evidence to suggest that headmasters are less well qualified now."

## Man killed wife in self-defence, counsel claims

From Our Correspondent  
St Albans

A husband who buried his wife in a garden grave and kept the secret for almost five years told police he killed her in self-defence, a jury at St Albans Crown Court was told yesterday.

Ronald Chambers, a factory worker, has pleaded not guilty to murder.

Mr Denis Cowley, QC, for the defence, said: "He stabbed her in self-defence. She attacked him with a carving knife."

"He fought her off and she fell on to the bed still holding a knife, which pierced her chest. His own thought was to save himself from being killed."

But he buried her and kept the gruesome secret because he was afraid police would not believe him.

The body of Mrs June Chambers, aged 40, was found in the garden of their former home at West Hill Road, Luton.

Mr Chambers, now of Enves Street, Blackpool, told the jury that he used to drink every night. "She would attack me violently if I tried to take the bottles away."

The hearing continues on Monday.

## Building in grounds of listed houses 'cannot be stopped'

A planning application to the Greater London Council has recently been granted: the council is powerless to prevent building in the grounds of listed historic houses. The council is concerned at the threat that this poses, and yesterday explained the danger to the appearance of London's historic houses in the light of recent legislation.

As it stands, the law allows the large gardens of such houses to be subdivided for housing development, with only barest council planning permission required.

Earlier this week, the council's historic buildings board considered a proposal to build three houses in the grounds of the Greater London Council's headquarters, the most notable houses. The case came before the board only because the developers wished to make a gateway in the eighteenth-century surrounding garden wall.

The "listed" wall could not be breached without consent, although the houses within the garden simply needed planning permission, which Camden Borough Council wished to grant. The GLC's historic buildings board decided "reluctantly" to authorize consent for the gateway because rejection could have meant a substantial compensation claim.

## Settlement for dismissed dancer

A settlement was reached yesterday between Equity, the actors' union, and Mr Michael White, the impresario, over the dismissal at short notice of Miss Elizabeth Seal from the West End musical, *A Chorus Line*. It is believed to include a four-figure payment to Miss Seal.

She is 42, and was dismissed from the show by Mr Michael Bennett, the American director.

## Royal garden party postponed

The Queen has agreed that a garden party at the Metropolitan Police College, Hendon, to mark her silver jubilee, and which she will attend, should be put back a day because local elections are taking place on the date planned.

The function, to which about 1,500 police officers and their wives have been invited, will take place on May 6.

## Immigration low in poll issues

From Arthur Osman  
Stechford

Mrs Thatcher discovered yesterday what most people on the ground have known for weeks, that immigration is not, and should not be, a major issue in the Birmingham, Stechford, by-election. Voting takes place next Thursday.

She said that Mr Andrew MacKay, aged 27, the Conservative candidate, had been careful to emphasize that everything he said on immigration was aimed at better race relations. She added: "We have nothing in common with the National Front, nothing whatsoever, and we believe that all people are equal before the law, with equal rights."

She restated official Conservative policy and said that during visits to a factory and shopping areas in the constituency and talks with dozens of people, only one person had raised the issue of immigration.

Last September Mr MacKay sent out 30,000 leaflets headed "Stop Immigration". The reasons he gave for doing so were "good race relations in the future, our weak economy, our overcrowded island, and our stretched social services."

He said many black people supported his call, which would not apply to immigrants who had offers of jobs in Britain. After the criticism this week in the Commons, he said: "I have been charged with issuing literature on immigration with facts and racial overtones. Nothing could be further from the facts."

Mr MacKay contends that immigration is second to the economy as an important issue, but there has been no evidence from him or anyone else that those activities are extra votes, and suggests that all members of the union should be informed of that decision and the reasons for it so that future elections are conducted strictly according to the rules. The committee's report was accepted by a 7 to 4 vote.

Mr Best, who has referred the allegations to his solicitor,

## Mr Steel reviews his 'shadows'

By Michael Hatfield

While the Government and the Liberal Party continued their talks about the joint consultative committee between the two sides yesterday, the Conservative Party was busy at the country of a general election to settle the fundamental political issues.

The main attack came from Mr Whitelaw, deputy leader of the party, speaking in a Liberal radio debate. "Mr Whitelaw really believes that it is they who are stopping Mr Callaghan unless they get more socialism on Britain?" he asked.

"The only thing that is stopping him is the fact that he found himself without a stable majority in the House of Commons—and everyone knows it."

"With Liberal help he may be prepared to hold back his next batch of executive legislation for a few months, but then only in the vain hope that he can gain some electoral advantage which will give him the power once more to carry on the socialist crusade."

While the Conservatives were venting their spleen, both the Labour and Liberal parties were in an ebullient mood last night. Mr Steel, leader of the Liberals, spent most of yesterday reformulating what he describes as his "shadow administration", which he plans to announce tomorrow.

"I have no comment to make at this time," Mr Ramelson told *The Times*: "It is a matter of fact that the Communist Party had anything to do with intervening or interfering in elections inside the electricians' union. Their only basis for that statement is the fact that he got a bigger vote than when he stood for the executive. This is only logical, because it was a national election."

"Not only was there no such decision taken, but there was no discussion about the issue as far as the Communist Party is concerned. I can make a categorical statement; the issue was never discussed, let alone 'directed'."

Mr Ramelson claimed that the aim of the inquiry was to "whip up an atmosphere of McCarthyite hysteria" to influence rank-and-file opinion in the months leading up to the

The Liberals are enjoying the enormous publicity that has attended them in the past week, and they lay great importance on the regular consultations they will have with the Government.

It is likely that a formal agreement on the subjects for consultation will be reached next week between Mr Steel and Mr Foot, Leader of the House of Commons and deputy leader of the Labour Party.

Mr Steel is to make a speech on Mr Richard Wainwright, at present Liberal spokesman on trade and industry, said last night: "Those who question this Steel-Callaghan arrangement should ask themselves what use the system of total parliamentary control has been in recent years."

"It has tortured the country, and especially industry, with zig-zag government, producing continuous uncertainty instead of stability, and dividing the British people instead of uniting them. It has been a recipe for conflict, and that socialism has been struck off the agenda and the left wing shackled, there can be more cooperation and less conflict. This is the only way in which the country can really get on with the job of recovery. The new arrangement should be judged by its results."

While the Labour left wing was voicing its concern, there

was no evidence last night that its members on the party's national executive committee had secured sufficient names to get a special meeting of the committee to discuss Mr Callaghan's announcement last Wednesday.

Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said last night in his Barnsley constituency that the Government had not made any shadowy deals with anyone, and that "accusations that it has should be treated with contempt."

Mr Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary, said in his constituency of Leeds, South, that the agreement involved no abandonment of principle. He would not be a party to a coalition or constituency agreement.

"The Liberals oppose us in all the country, and we oppose them and will continue to do so. The arrangement at Westminster is a parliamentary agreement and not a party agreement."

Mr Heselgrave, Conservative spokesman on the environment, said yesterday: "The only contribution the Liberal Party has made this week is to give the Government time to complete the nationalization of the aircraft and shipbuilding industry, which a general election would have prevented. So much for the Liberal claim that their accommodation is helping the march of socialism."

In the service of the Communist Party of the United Kingdom and the ideas of the party. Apart from the actual ballot, the Communist Party operated within the union. In June 1955, Brother Scott, who at that time claimed to have been a member of the Communist Party, received a vote of 2,897 in a national election. In September 1955, when the Communist Party machine operated on his behalf, his national vote became 23,175.

In the words of Mr Justice Wilm, "I find directly manifest the effect upon the electoral fortunes of several individuals produced directly by the decisions to afford or withhold support arrived at by Communist representatives..." Among the individuals named by the judge was Brother Scott.

In the view of the lessons of the High Court case, it is reasonable to draw a parallel between the support given by the Communist Party to Brother Scott and that given to Brother Best.

## ITV suggests fifth channel could be open instead

By a Staff Reporter

The Anson committee's central recommendation that a new open broadcasting authority should take responsibility for the proposed fourth television channel was unlikely to stand up to the light of day, Sir Geoffrey Cox said on behalf of independent television companies yesterday.

Sir Geoffrey, a director of Trident Television, said he was surprised if the new authority came into being to run the fourth channel, although it is an idea which would make sense for a fifth channel.

Mrs Grace Wyndham Goldie, former head of BBC Television, praised the recommendation that the fourth channel should not go to independent television, which would have led to a lowering of BBC and commercial television standards.

She added: "I do not think we can really afford a fourth channel and I would fight against anything which included sponsorship of programmes."

## Tories claim first signs of Liberal 'revolt'

Conservatives said yesterday that their success in a local by-election on Thursday in a Liberal stronghold was the first sign of revolt by members of that party against the Callaghan-Steel agreement.

A Conservative topped the poll in a ward of Wokingham District Council, Berks, for the first time since 1972. Until then Liberals had won every election and by-election in the ward.

Mr Christopher Poole, the local Tory agent, said: "This was the first reaction by the voters anywhere in the country to the deal between the Liberals and the Government." He added that several Liberals had voted independent or stayed at home. "We even had one per cent the first time since 1972. Until the night before we came into our committee rooms to help us."

The result was: Mrs Kathleen Henderson (C) 642; Mrs Jean Roberts (L) 569; Mrs Anne Davidson (I) 234; Mr William Hartley (Lab) 235.

## Fines over seal cull

Four women who demonstrated against the Canadian seal cull by chaining themselves to railings in the Canadian High Commission in London were each fined £5 at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday.

## Mr Steel explains

The Liberal deal with the Labour Government is unique in postwar British politics. Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, writes exclusively in *The Sunday Times* thinking about his party's thinking over the move which saved the Government from a general election.

## Young men are turning back to sober suits

By Peter Hill

Young men are turning away from casual wear, like denim jeans and chequered shirts, and are choosing instead sober, well styled suits. That is the view of the Tie Manufacturers' Association, supported in part by the International Wool Secretariat.

Both organisations, of course, are closely involved with the more formal end of the clothing market, but import figures for Indian chequered cloth seem to lend weight to their argument. Last year's summer stimulated the trade with India to a record of £7.6m. This year, after representations by Britain's shirtmakers (and on the more sober side of the business), imports are to be limited to £5.45m.

Mr Tony Gould, the International Wool Secretariat's marketing manager, suggests that when the general economic climate is full of gloom and doom, when people have less money, they prefer to spend what they can on a "decent suit."

## Two Canaletto views sold for £110,000 each

By Geraldine Norman

Two fine Venetian views by Canaletto, belonging to Sir Christopher Beauchamp, were sold at Christie's yesterday for £110,000 apiece (estimate £50,000 to £70,000 each). One went to an anonymous buyer and the other to a German dealer. They are thought to have been executed for George Frothingham, who visited Venice in 1738-40 and was on loan to the Castle Museum, Norwich, from 1962 until 1973.

Bidding in Christie's Old Master sale was somewhat erratic, with the Canaletto by Sir Christopher Beauchamp, which was bought by a collector for £110,000, and the other by a German dealer for £110,000.

The Canaletto, "The Piazza San Marco, Venice," went to Colnaghi's at £40,000 (estimate £25,000 to £35,000) and Brod paid £25,000 for a "Bench Scene" by Jan van Goyen of 1734 (estimate £15,000 to £25,000). The van Goyen had been sold at Christie's in 1953 for £10,000, when it fetched £17,105.

## Correction

The British pharmaceutical industry spends £10m annually on research, not £10m as stated in Thursday's report of evidence to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service.

## Band leader dies

Mr Billy Tennent, the band leader and conductor, has died at his home in Wembley, north-west London. He was 77 and had been suffering from leukaemia for two years.

السلامة العامة



## HOME NEWS

Virus deaths  
rise to 16 at  
old people's  
home

Our Correspondent  
wrote upon Tyne  
The death toll at Earsdon  
nursing home, in  
Wear, rose to 16  
yesterday, but council officials  
expressed the hope that effects  
of the virus responsible may  
be waning. The latest  
victim, a man aged 91, was one  
of six residents of the home in  
Hankenshaw who died on Thursday.  
He had the same symptoms  
as the nine women and  
men who have died since  
March 11.

Yesterday, however, the  
condition of one person was  
said to have improved. Mr Sidney  
Thompson, director of social  
services for North Tyneside  
Council, said: "The four people  
remain sufficiently ill to give  
us cause to be concerned but  
this may now be coming to an  
end."

Seven of the original 14  
members of staff at the home  
are showing signs of the virus  
symptoms, including general  
illness, sickness, dizziness and  
coughs, but Mr Thompson  
said that their condition was  
improving. The four people  
died of the virus were a man  
and three women. Mr Thompson  
said that the virus was not  
spread by contact with the  
deceased. He said that the  
virus was not spread by contact  
with the deceased. He said that  
the virus was not spread by  
contact with the deceased.

Our Medical Correspondent  
writes: In contrast to bacterial  
diseases such as typhoid or  
diphtheria, there is no simple  
rapid laboratory test for con-  
firmation of the diagnosis in  
most virus illnesses. Culture of  
viruses takes much longer than  
growing bacteria in the labora-  
tory and tests for antibodies  
are also less predictable.  
While there may be good  
clinical grounds for believing  
that the cause of the outbreak  
is infection with an influenza  
or similar respiratory virus,  
proof may not be available for  
some time.

Science report, page 14

Minister urged to  
ban concrete  
hardening agent

A Staff Reporter  
The Government is under  
pressure to prohibit the use of  
calcium chloride in the building  
industry after the discovery of  
faults in prestressed concrete  
columns and beams. The sub-  
stance is used as a hardening  
agent in concrete.  
Earlier this week the Govern-  
ment urged the owners of  
more than 350 buildings in  
Britain, mainly schools and  
offices, which incorporated a  
particular type of prestressed  
concrete construction to carry  
out checks.  
Mr Robert Hughes, Labour  
Minister for the Environment,  
has asked Mr Short, Secretary  
of State for the Environment,  
to ban the use of calcium  
chloride.

Tea companies 'want to  
raise prices by 27p a lb'

Two tea companies wanted  
to raise prices by 27p a pound,  
said Robert Watkinson, a  
director of Cadbury Schweppes,  
yesterday. They would  
probably have to raise prices  
more than 20p a pound because  
of the rising cost of tea.  
Mr Watkinson, whose com-  
pany packs Topham tea, said  
that when prices rose so  
quickly a freeze of the type  
imposed by the Government  
in its new price control plan  
could be disastrous. "The best  
commercial policy for those  
generals would be to cease  
raising," he said.  
He was speaking after the  
annual meeting of the Food  
& Drink Industries Council,  
at which delegates had con-  
sidered the investigations

## Vehicle tolls opposed

Proposals in a West York-  
shire County Council report  
that motorists should be  
charged a tax to drive into the  
streets of Leeds and Bradford  
are coming under attack from  
Leeds and Huddersfield  
Road Users' Group.  
The council is criticized for  
handing of the report, for  
though it is described as a

## Hosenball plea opened in Appeal Court

Mr Stewart Tendler  
an Affairs Reporter  
Mr Mark Hosenball, the  
American journalist facing de-  
portation on grounds of  
security, yesterday began a  
fresh challenge in the courts  
by the decision by Mr Rees, the  
Home Secretary.  
Last week three High Court  
judges refused an application  
to overturn the Home Sec-  
retary's decision and yesterday  
Mr Hosenball began an appeal  
against that refusal in the  
Court of Appeal before Lord  
Denning, Master of the Rolls,  
and two other judges.  
Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC,  
for Mr Hosenball, told the  
court that the case was a classic  
example of "the fundamental



An Iron-Age meal being served beside the unfinished communal round house.

Living as in  
300 BC, for  
television

From Kenneth Gosling

It was quiet on the "secret"  
Iron Age site in Dorset yester-  
day, until 60 press and televi-  
sion people arrived to question  
the six couples and three chil-  
dren who are going to have to  
survive for 12 months in some-  
thing as near the original settle-  
ment of 300 BC as human  
ingenuity and research have  
been able to devise.  
The women were preparing  
for the pot three chickens  
freshly slaughtered from their  
henhouse on stilts. The children  
were playing in the mud—and  
up to the cameras—and the

men were surveying the great  
round house where all the  
couples will eventually live.  
Tents are still being used.  
The project was devised by a  
BBC television producer,  
Mr John Percival, who is being  
paid £20 a week, and a team  
of about a year ago, and 20  
of them "auditioned" on a  
site in Hampshire last summer.  
All have had to learn the new  
skills that will be needed to  
keep them alive without out-  
side help for the next year.  
Mr Percival admitted yester-  
day that not everything had  
gone according to schedule.  
The round house will not be  
ready for three more weeks.  
He said that the team had  
been using a twentieth-century  
tape measure, and consequently  
they have a house that will not  
keep the water out.  
Animals known to have lived

in the Iron Age are nearby all  
on the site: special breeds of  
pigs, sheep, goats, chickens and  
cattle. The volunteers will  
grow their crops and vegeta-  
bles; they will hunt for game  
with knives and bows and  
arrows.  
For emergencies, there is a  
telephone a mile and a half  
from the site; otherwise they  
will be completely "isolated".  
They will ignore the cameras  
that will eventually turn the  
experience into seven television  
programmes.  
Sarah Rockliff, a teacher  
from Norfolk, whose husband,  
John, was a builder until he  
learned blacksmithing for the  
project, said: "We are very  
happy with twentieth-century  
life, and in no way are we  
escaping from it." After the  
first few days of living rough,  
the only thing she wanted was  
the comfort of an armchair.

Universities 'have failed to  
provide for industry'

By Annabel Ferriman of The  
Times Higher Education  
Supplement

Universities will have to pro-  
duce more technologically  
educated generalists if the per-  
formance of British industry is  
to improve, according to a docu-  
ment launched yesterday by a  
group of Labour Party indus-  
trialists.  
"Britain's higher educational  
institutions, unlike those in  
France and Germany, have  
failed to provide industry with  
ambitious and able generalists  
with qualifications which are  
predominantly scientific and  
technical. Our generalists par-  
excellence are the Oxford  
classics and great men", it  
says.  
The document was produced  
by a working party of the 1972  
Industry Group, a 100-strong  
group of Labour Party members  
in industry and commerce.  
Members of the working party,  
which was headed by Sir Sig-  
mund Sternberg, were advised  
by academics, including Pro-  
fessor Bruce Archer of the  
Royal College of Art, Lord  
Cromer-Hunt, fellow of Exeter  
College, Oxford, Dr Edward  
Edwards, vice-chancellor of  
Bradford University, and Lord  
Houghton of Sowerby.  
It recommends government-  
sponsored bursaries for per-

Boy found  
hanged  
'was bullied'

A pupil found hanged at  
Millfield School, Somerset, had  
been bullied, Mr J. Fenton  
Rutter, the East Somerset  
coroner, was told yesterday.  
Mehran Sarkeshik, aged 13, an  
Iranian, was found hanging from  
a judo belt attached to two  
beams in a changing room, it  
was stated.  
Mr Rutter decided there was  
insufficient evidence to say that  
the boy, in his first term at the  
school, where boarders' fees  
are nearly £3,000 a year, took  
his own life and recorded an  
open verdict.  
Mr Rutter said: "We have  
evidence of bullying, and that  
history will not be investi-  
gated by the police. Crime had  
been eliminated and death could  
have been caused in one of two  
ways.  
"Either he was playing about  
with the belt, or he may have  
been trying to draw attention  
to himself without expecting to  
be strangled; or it is possible  
he may have taken his life  
deliberately." He could not  
decide whether it was an acci-  
dent or deliberate.  
Earlier, Police-constable  
Howard Horsfall said the boy  
had been bullied. Mr Rutter  
said: "According to one witness  
the deceased was afraid some-  
one was going to fight him  
that night."  
Police-constable Horsfall  
said: "One of the students did  
admit that he had heard this  
had been threatened."

students going into courses  
relevant to industry and the  
reshaping of many science and  
engineering courses so that they  
are more attuned to producing  
the sort of graduate needed by  
industry.  
Lord Brown, former chair-  
man of the Glacier Metal Com-  
pany and one of the authors of  
the report, introducing the docu-  
ment yesterday, said that the  
University Grants Com-  
mittee would have to persuade  
universities to change the em-  
phasis of their courses away  
from non-vocational work and  
set up new courses in industrial  
technology.  
Industry would also have to  
revise its pay structure for  
technologists and engineers so  
that it was more competitive  
with the public sector, take a  
regular number of graduates  
yearly and be prepared to pro-  
mote technologists and pro-  
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room.  
To ensure enough well  
qualified technicians, industry  
should also increase the amount  
of day release. Business  
schools were criticised for not  
sending enough graduates into  
industry and for having too  
many academic courses.  
Education and Industry, a man-  
ifesto for action (The 1972 Industry  
Group, 14 Queens Court, Queens-  
way, London).

Detention of boy,  
18, who seduced  
a girl of eleven

An apprentice engineer, aged  
18, urged a girl of 11 to have  
intercourse by telling her:  
"You have got to start some-  
time," the prosecution said at  
the Central Criminal Court  
yesterday.  
Judge West-Russell said: "If  
the court is to take a serious  
view in cases of girls of this  
age I do not know what the  
country is coming to."  
David Gray, of Spring Grove,  
Farncombe, Surrey, pleaded  
guilty to having intercourse with  
a girl under 16 and was sent  
to a detention centre for three  
months.  
"Not fair game": The fact  
that a girl might have "slipped  
aside from virtue" did not  
mean she was fair game for a  
man who could force himself  
on her, Lord Cameron said in  
Edinburgh Crown Court yester-  
day. He jailed William Mac-  
donald, aged 25, of Inverness,  
for seven years after he pleaded  
guilty to raping a girl of 17 at  
knifepoint in her home in  
Inverness on January 6.  
He said Mr MacDonald was  
staying at the girl's home and  
she even gave up her bed for  
him after he was put out of his  
house. If he knew, as he may  
have done, that the girl was not  
inexperienced it might have  
suggested to him that resistance  
to his advances would not be  
prolonged and severe. Young  
women were entitled to protec-  
tion, whatever their character.

## Hosenball plea opened in Appeal Court

principles of natural justice and  
the executive's bold assertion  
to a claim of confidentiality on  
the grounds of national security.  
"Having gone before a Home  
Office advisory panel to make  
representations against the  
Home Secretary's plans to de-  
port, Mr Blom-Cooper said, Mr  
Hosenball had never been  
given any particulars of the  
allegations against him.  
There had been a blanket  
refusal to give particulars and  
Mr Blom-Cooper said that was  
a matter for the court. He  
said: "The Secretary of State  
is not the sole and final  
arbiter."  
As he began to describe Mr  
Hosenball's background and the  
events following the notice of

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Farncombe, Surrey, pleaded  
guilty to having intercourse with  
a girl under 16 and was sent  
to a detention centre for three  
months.  
"Not fair game": The fact  
that a girl might have "slipped  
aside from virtue" did not  
mean she was fair game for a  
man who could force himself  
on her, Lord Cameron said in  
Edinburgh Crown Court yester-  
day. He jailed William Mac-  
donald, aged 25, of Inverness,  
for seven years after he pleaded  
guilty to raping a girl of 17 at  
knifepoint in her home in  
Inverness on January 6.  
He said Mr MacDonald was  
staying at the girl's home and  
she even gave up her bed for  
him after he was put out of his  
house. If he knew, as he may  
have done, that the girl was not  
inexperienced it might have  
suggested to him that resistance  
to his advances would not be  
prolonged and severe. Young  
women were entitled to protec-  
tion, whatever their character.

## Hosenball plea opened in Appeal Court

principles of natural justice and  
the executive's bold assertion  
to a claim of confidentiality on  
the grounds of national security.  
"Having gone before a Home  
Office advisory panel to make  
representations against the  
Home Secretary's plans to de-  
port, Mr Blom-Cooper said, Mr  
Hosenball had never been  
given any particulars of the  
allegations against him.  
There had been a blanket  
refusal to give particulars and  
Mr Blom-Cooper said that was  
a matter for the court. He  
said: "The Secretary of State  
is not the sole and final  
arbiter."  
As he began to describe Mr  
Hosenball's background and the  
events following the notice of

## WEST EUROPE

Cut-price butter plan will barely  
cover increase British must  
expect to pay under EEC rules

From David Cross  
Brussels, March 25

The European Community is  
considering offering some of its  
surplus butter for sale in  
member countries like Britain  
at special cut-price prices as part  
of this year's farm price review.  
The idea is expected to be  
discussed by ministers of agri-  
culture of the Nine during a  
two or three-day session which  
opened here today. They are  
trying to meet their customary  
April 1 deadline for fixing agri-  
cultural prices for the coming  
crop season.

But with Belgium and Holland  
facing general elections during  
the next few weeks and the  
British and West Germans in  
no particular hurry to see  
higher farm prices take effect,  
it is doubtful if this will pro-  
ceed. Only the French and the  
Irish, with powerful farm  
lobbies, are keen to reach an  
agreement by the end of the  
month.

Any cut-price butter sales  
approved by the Community would  
probably be introduced for a  
two-month period at the end of  
the year to clear up to 100,000  
tons of the present 170,000 ton  
surplus. The butter would be  
sold at a cut of about 14p to  
15p a lb off the present price in  
Britain of 56p a lb.

This saving would just about  
offset the 16p a lb increase  
likely to take place in Britain  
as a result of final price adjust-  
ments towards the general EEC

level under the country's terms  
of accession to the Community.  
This year's farm price review  
and possible changes in the  
value of the so-called green  
pound in which British agricul-  
tural prices are calculated.  
Any such scheme would be  
warmly welcomed by the British  
Government. After the recent  
sale of subsidised butter to the  
Soviet Union, Mr John Silkin,  
the Minister of Agriculture,  
suggested that EEC surpluses  
should be made available to  
consumers within the Com-  
munity.

The British are also seeking a  
price freeze for dairy products  
during this year's review, but  
this wish is less likely to be  
granted. In response to strong  
pressure in particular from the  
Belgians, Mr Gundelach, the  
European Commissioner for  
Agriculture, is understood to be  
considering improving his  
original offer of a 3 per cent  
rise in the autumn.

This would take the form of  
an immediate increase of 3 per  
cent and a further 2 per cent  
rise in mid-September. How-  
ever, the initial rise would  
be offset by getting dairy  
farmers to pay a 2 per cent tax  
on their products from April 1.  
To show their displeasure at the  
Commission's original  
modest offer, about 40 Belgian  
dairy farmers wearing banners  
demonstrated outside today's  
meeting. Mr Albert Lavens, the  
Belgian Minister of Agriculture,  
assured them of his support  
personally.

Mr Gundelach is also re-  
ported to be considering a modest  
improvement in other sections  
of this year's farm price pro-  
posals which would increase the  
original 3 per cent all-round  
rise to about 4.5 per cent. But  
the key to final settlement will  
be an agreement on the level of  
"green" currency rates.

Most countries are objecting  
to the Commission's original  
proposals on this point either  
because they would cut the  
revenue of their farmers (Bel-  
gium, Ireland and the Nether-  
lands) or because they would  
give a further boost to food  
prices in the shops (principally  
the British).

Today's deliberations opened  
with an inconclusive discussion  
of fishing rights for EEC fish-  
ermen off the coast of Ireland.  
The British are objecting to  
new proposals tabled by the  
Commission which would drasti-  
cally reduce their fleet's activi-  
ties off the north-west and south-  
west coasts of the Republic.

However, the Community is  
under considerable pressure to  
reach a settlement quickly as  
the Irish are threatening to in-  
troduce unilateral controls on  
the size of vessels allowed to  
operate in their waters. Duly  
warned, the Commission is  
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## European unions predict unrest

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

The Rome EEC summit came  
under heavy fire from the Euro-  
pean Trade Union Confedera-  
tion yesterday over the failure  
of member governments to pro-  
mote economic growth and cut  
unemployment. Ministers were  
warned that unless they took  
action to deal with the threat of  
possible collapse of incomes  
policies it could, political  
proposals were not forthcoming.  
The European TUC said in an  
unusually strongly worded  
statement that on conservative  
estimates the unemployment  
rate in the nine Com-  
munity countries were out of  
work, half of them being under  
25. Their numbers would in-  
crease substantially if the  
Commission's growth forecast  
for 1977 of 3.5 per cent (nearly  
half that of the 1976 target) was  
allowed to become a reality.

The unions argued: "Clearly,  
the sort of policies which have  
been followed up till now have  
been totally unsatisfactory. Any  
member state which has not  
taken the necessary steps to  
ensure that the necessary  
decisions to break out of that  
vicious cycle."  
The unions said they had  
repeatedly demonstrated will-  
ingness to promote stability by  
accepting wage-restricting policy.  
"On the other hand, the Com-  
munity as a whole. Workers  
in Europe were increasingly  
sceptical about the ability or  
willingness of Community in-  
stitutions to take effective action  
to deal with unemployment."

Mr Rutter said: "We have  
evidence of bullying, and that  
history will not be investi-  
gated by the police. Crime had  
been eliminated and death could  
have been caused in one of two  
ways.  
"Either he was playing about  
with the belt, or he may have  
been trying to draw attention  
to himself without expecting to  
be strangled; or it is possible  
he may have taken his life  
deliberately." He could not  
decide whether it was an acci-  
dent or deliberate.  
Earlier, Police-constable  
Howard Horsfall said the boy  
had been bullied. Mr Rutter  
said: "According to one witness  
the deceased was afraid some-  
one was going to fight him  
that night."

Nato asked  
for ruling  
on Awacs

From David Cross  
Brussels, March 25

Nato governments came under  
strong British pressure today  
to decide whether to set up an  
airborne early warning system  
(Awacs) for the alliance.

Mr Fred Mulley, the British  
Defence Secretary, told his col-  
leagues at a special meeting  
here that they were getting very  
close to a final decision. Britain  
had with difficulty continued  
to fund a possible alternative  
national early warning system  
based on Nimrod reconnaissance  
aircraft and now wanted to  
know whether this should be  
cancelled in favour of the col-  
lective Nato scheme.

He pointed out that a final  
decision to buy 27 Boeing 707  
aircraft equipped with sophis-  
ticated radar equipment at a cost  
of about \$2,400m (about  
£1,400m) had been postponed a  
number of times. The latest  
deadline set by the British was  
April 1.

Other ministers reaffirmed  
their general support for the  
scheme but the West Germans,  
in particular, asked for more  
time to work out cost-sharing  
arrangements. They object to  
contributing some 25 per cent  
of the total cost on the ground  
that funds of this scale are  
already committed to other  
defence projects.

The Americans, who have also  
been pressing for a swift deci-  
sion, today agreed to increase  
their share of the costs. But it  
was unclear whether the  
whether this offer was suffi-  
ciently generous to satisfy Bonn.

'Public enemy No 1' gets  
20-year jail sentence

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, March 25

Jean-Charles Willquet, aged  
32, described by the police as  
"public enemy No 1", who  
committed 21 armed robberies  
and holdups in three years, was  
sentenced by the Paris assize  
court today to 20 years' im-  
prisonment.

His wife, Martine, a frequent  
accomplice to his crimes, was  
given five years. Seven accomp-  
lices were jailed for between  
12 and five years.

Court reporters were sur-  
prised when the public prose-  
cutor, called for only 20 years,  
a show of relative indulgence  
unusual on his part.  
He had not been able, he  
said, to bring home to the  
court a death penalty, alluding  
to cases which revolted public

opinion even more than hold-  
ups, but were not sanctioned  
by death. The recent Troyes  
trial in which Patrick Henry  
was jailed for life for kid-  
napping and murdering a child  
was on his mind.  
He is also to be tried for  
allegedly kidnapping two  
judges in an escape attempt.

Gaulists make M Chirac's  
triumph complete

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, March 25

M Jacques Chirac, the Presi-  
dent of the Gaullist Rassem-  
blement, was elected Mayor of  
Paris today by 67 votes to 40  
for the communist candidate M  
Henri Flobin, at the first meet-  
ing of the council.

Mr Chirac's triumph was a  
foregone conclusion. The only  
question had been whether it  
would be complete or not.  
Yesterday, M Michel d'Ornano,  
the Minister for Industry who  
had been his opponent at the  
polls, came to Paris to con-  
gratulate Mr Chirac.

The parties of the Govern-  
ment majority thus gave a  
demonstration of new found  
unity in the capital where they  
had been most bitterly divided  
in the recent municipal elec-  
tions campaign. This should  
help to pave the way for a  
reconciliation between Presi-  
dent Giscard d'Estaing and the  
new Mayor of the capital.

Mr Chirac had staked his  
political future on the success  
of his surprise candidature  
against the Government's nomi-  
nee, M d'Ornano. He was visibly  
moved by the solemnity of the  
occasion when he took posses-  
sion of his seat, and made his  
inaugural speech, devoted exclu-  
sively to an eulogy of his  
predecessor, the last President  
of the Paris Council, Dr Bern-  
ard Lafay.

Then, after taking over  
his new office, the largest  
in the town, he said from the  
former Prefect of the capital,  
M Jean Tautou, the new  
Mayor, accompanied by the  
representative of the central Gov-  
ernment through the gilded  
doors and down the staircase,  
lined with blue and red Republi-  
can Guards in full dress with  
drawn swords, to a waiting car. It was the

symbolic close of six centuries  
of state tutelage over the city.  
Mr Chirac intends to surround  
himself with a strong team. His  
first deputy responsible for  
finance, will be M Christian  
de la Motte, who has been in  
control of the budget of the  
capital for 12 years. Mr Maurice  
Duboulet, who was Prefect for  
nine years, will be one of his  
closest advisers, and M Con-  
ve de Murville, the former Prime  
Minister, will be the city's  
"delegate for international  
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ve de Murville, the former Prime  
Minister, will be the city's  
"delegate for international  
affairs".

Danish printers to defy  
labour court ruling

From Our Correspondent  
Copenhagen, March 25

Printers at the Berlingske  
publishing house, Denmark's  
biggest newspaper publishers,  
decided today to defy a labour  
court and stay on strike until  
a negotiated settlement is  
reached on their grievances.  
Berlingske insists that they re-  
turn to work before any nego-  
tiations can start.

The labour court yesterday  
fined the 1,000 printers £50  
each and for the second time  
ordered them to go back to  
work. The dispute has stopped  
publication of the national  
dailies Berlingske Tidende and  
BT since January 30.

Sympathy strikes today stop-  
ped publication of five Danish  
newspapers, including the main  
opposition to the Berlingske

Surprise at  
Areliza  
decision to  
resign

From Our Own Correspondent  
Madrid, March 25

Señor José María Areliza, the  
former Spanish Foreign Min-  
ister and vice-president of the  
Popular Party, has resigned from  
the party and says he will  
not contest the general election,  
it was learnt here today.

The announcement took polit-  
ical circles by surprise, particu-  
larly as the Popular Party forms  
part of the Democratic Centre,  
a coalition of liberal, social  
democratic and some Christian  
democratic forces that is con-  
sidered to have good electoral  
chances.

The resignation was appar-  
ently brought on by growing  
conflicts between the Popular  
Party and strained relations be-  
tween Señor Suárez, the Prime  
Minister, and Señor Areliza. But  
Señor Areliza made no mention  
of this in his letter of resigna-  
tion, saying he was not acting  
against anyone or anything.

Señor Areliza and Señor Pi-  
Cabinillas, the party's presi-  
dent, a former Information Min-  
ister, saw the Prime Minister  
on Wednesday. The resignation  
of this in his letter of resigna-  
tion, saying he was not acting  
against anyone or anything.

The exact political colouring  
of the Prime Minister is still  
a mystery; he has been careful  
not to align himself with any  
particular group. His years  
spent with the National Move-  
ment, the only legal political  
organisation under General  
Franco, clearly put him on the  
right, but since he took office  
in July his political line has  
been directed towards the  
centre.

Now that Señor Areliza has  
resigned, Señor Suárez may de-  
cide to focus on the centre  
forces, particularly as the other  
so-called centre alliance, the  
neo-Francoist Popular Alliance,  
headed by Señor Manuel Fraga  
Iribarne, the Interior Minister,  
is gaining ground all the time.

The resignation is the second  
this month by an important and  
respected politician. Earlier,  
Señor José María Gil Robles,  
the veteran Christian Demo-  
cratic leader, resigned to make  
possible the formation of a big  
Christian democratic party. This  
new party, the Christi-  
Democratic Federation, will be  
constituted formally on Sunday  
and will stand on its own in the  
election.



## OVERSEAS

# Mr Ram agrees to join Indian Cabinet after personal appeal from Prime Minister

From Richard Wigg  
Delhi, Saturday Morning  
After days of negotiations, Mr. Morarji Desai, the new Indian Prime Minister, announced late last night that Mr. Jagjivan Ram, his rival for the office of Prime Minister, was joining the Cabinet.

Mr. Ram, the 68-year-old leader of the breakaway Congress Party, had been resisting joining the administration as a protest over the way Mr. Desai was selected yesterday to lead the Janata (People's) Party. The two parties fought the general election in harness, but Mr. Ram's group is to keep its separate identity even though it will have at least two members in the Cabinet.

The 19-man Council of Ministers is to be sworn in by the acting President, Mr. B. D. Jetti, today.

Mr. Desai won Mr. Ram over in a 20-minute meeting at Mr. Ram's home. The allocation of portfolios has not been announced, so it is not yet known whether Mr. Ram and Mr. Charan Singh, the number two figure in the Janata Party, who is also in the Cabinet, are both to be deputy premiers.

The inclusion of Mr. Ram, who is leader of India's 80 million "Untouchables", was regarded as a vital move by Mr. Desai if the new Government was to keep its populist image. But the manoeuvring cannot hide the fact that groups within the victorious alliance have been jockeying for key posts, which they have claimed on the basis of their supposed contribution to getting out of the anti-Gandhi vote.

Mr. Ram's supporters have been bitter over developments with Janata, though they concede a leadership election within the alliance might have resulted in only a tied vote between Mr. Ram and Mr. Desai. But they claim that Mr. Singh's MPs have already benefited from a Congress for Democracy decision to stand down in Uttar Pradesh during the general election in order to prevent Mrs. Gandhi's Congress Party scrapping home.

In the new parliamentary line up, Janata alone has 271 seats, one short of an absolute majority, but it can rely on the eight Akali Sikh MPs from the Punjab and two other minor groups with a total of seven seats. The Marxist Communists, who won 22 seats, had indicated support, though they are now wavering.

The cautious line Mr. Desai took at his press conference yesterday over the emotional issue of reviewing and possibly punishing those who committed "mistakes" during the emergency is another divisive factor for the socialists and the Marxist communists, many of whom were jailed.

Delhi, March 25.—Mr. George Fernandes, the former president of the Socialist Party, is also in the new cabinet. The others are: Charan Singh, L. K. Advani, Prakash Singh Badal, Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna, Sikkandar Bakht, Shanti Bhushan, Dr. Prakash Chandra Madh, Dandavate, Nanaji Deshmukh, Mohan Dhar, Purshottam Lal Kaushik, Raj Narain, H. M. Patel, Biju Patnaik, P. Ramachandran, Atal Behari Vajpayee and Ravindra Varma.

Mr. Desai was met with loud applause when he entered Parliament for the first time as Prime Minister today. He walked to the opposition benches in the Lok Sabha and shook hands warmly with the leaders of the defeated Congress Party.

Mr. Ram sat on the Government front bench, talking to senior members of the Janata Party as other MPs took the oath of office.

Later the Lower House passed a supplementary budget for the financial year commencing on April 1.

A joint session of the Lower House and the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) presided over by acting President Mr. B. D. Jetti, is to be held on Monday. At present the Upper House is still controlled by the Congress Party.

During the day, crowds demonstrated on the lawns of Mr. Ram's house, shouting slogans against the Janata Party and the manner in which Mr. Desai was selected as its leader. They demanded a new party election. Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, the ailing pacifist leader, was flown to a Bombay hospital today for kidney treatment. This is the second time in two months that the 74-year-old politician has been admitted to hospital.

Mr. Narayan played a key role in installing Mr. Desai as Prime Minister yesterday and also helped bring about the merger of four non-Communist opposition parties into the Janata Party to fight the elections.—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

Leading article, page 13

## Mr Bhutto rearrests opponents

From Our Correspondent  
Rawalpindi, March 25

Mr. Maulana Mufi Mahmud and several other leaders of the Pakistan National Alliance of nine opposition parties were arrested today on the eve of the opening meeting of Pakistan's new national assembly in Islamabad tomorrow.

The alliance had announced it would observe the inaugural day of the assembly as a "black day" and call for a general strike throughout the country. Thirty-six members of the alliance elected on March 7 have already announced that they would not go into the assembly as it was the result of rigged elections.

Among those arrested in various cities are the heads of seven of the nine opposition parties forming the alliance, including Air Marshal Asghar Khan, Professor Chaudhry Ahmad, general-secretary of the alliance, has also been arrested and Begum Abdul Wali Khan.

wife of the imprisoned president of the outlawed National Awami Party, has been placed under arrest at her home in North-West Frontier province.

A statement issued simultaneously by the chief ministers of all four provinces found engaged in violence or arson would be shot on sight by the Army or the police.

The chief ministers' statements maintained that it was the constitutional duty of the Government to protect the life, honour and property of all citizens and that no efforts would be spared to carry it out.

Press reports from Karachi, which is under curfew for the sixth day, and Hyderabad, say there has been violence between rival political groups and attacks on Government buildings and transport. Official reports from most parts of the country, broadcast over the radio, however, say conditions are peaceful.

The Opposition has accused the Government of provoking violence by deploying partisan forces against known members of the Opposition. It said it had planned to conduct a peaceful and peaceful movement against the Government through courting arrest by defying the ban on public political activity.

Government statements on the other hand, have alleged that the Opposition has been trying to create civil commotion, with the backing of capitalists and foreign agents.

Troops have been called out to curb violence in Hyderabad and a big fire in Karachi is reported to have destroyed part of the Federal Government Secretariat last night. The Opposition claims that more than 100 people have been killed, about 1,000 injured and about 10,000 arrested during disturbances in Karachi, Hyderabad and a few other cities in the past two weeks.

## Anglo-US air pact still a long way off

By John Young

Talks between Britain and the United States over a new North Atlantic air services agreement will resume in Washington on Monday. Many issues remain to be resolved before the deadline of June 22, when Britain threatens to terminate the 30-year-old Bermuda agreement.

The main points of dispute are "designations"—which airlines are allotted which routes—fares and wasteful competition; the "fifth freedom" rights which allow American airlines to carry passengers onwards from London to other countries, and the future of Concord.

Peripheral issues include the future of the Laker Airways Skytrain, which the British Government has never viewed with much enthusiasm, and the switching of more scheduled services to Gatwick.

Mr. Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, is expected to make a statement in the Commons before Easter about plans for greater use of Gatwick which handles only five million passengers a year against a capacity of 16 million. It has already been made clear that the expected American services to Atlanta and Houston, part of a reciprocal arrangement with British Caledonian will be required to use Gatwick.

British officials feel sure a satisfactory agreement can be reached before June. British and French officials will also be meeting the federal court judge hearing the lawsuit which alleges the Port of New York Authority over its failure to admit Concord.

Leading article, page 13

## Belgian jailed for five years in Russia

Moscow, March 25.—A Leningrad court today sentenced a 31-year-old Belgian to five years in a labour camp for anti-Soviet agitation. Anton Pye was alleged to have distributed political pamphlets at Leningrad University last December.—Reuter.

## Correction

The Government of Dr. Kofi Busia, which ruled Ghana from 1969 to 1972, did not suspend the constitution, as was stated in the special report on Ghana on March 11. The debts that the Acheampong regime repudiated in 1972 dated from the Nkrumah period and were not incurred by the Busia Government.

## Kurdish rebels seize three more hostages

By Edward Mortimer

Two French civilians and an Algerian have been captured by Kurdish rebels in Iraq and are being held hostage, together with four Poles who were captured last December.

This information, given to The Times by Kurdish sources in London, has been confirmed by the French Government, which is trying to obtain their release.

M. Dominique Souvy and M. Philippe Drezet were working for a French private company in Iraq. They were captured on February 28, together with the Algerian.

According to the Kurdish sources they were seized "on the Salah-Din to Ramadous axis". This would mean on or close to the main road from Baghdad to Hajj Karan, on the Iraq-Iran border, at least 30 miles inside Iraq.

The sources say that the hostages are now being held in the area of Sulaymaniyah, further south and that there is a real danger as this area is the scene of a big Iraqi offensive against the Kurdish guerrillas, which began on March 17.

The offensive is said to involve six battalions of Iraqi infantry as well as armed helicopters and artillery. The Kurds claim that in the first four days there were 500 Iraqi casualties against 26 Kurdish, but about 30 Kurdish villages were burnt. They also claim to have captured two Iraqi officers and a number of weapons and other ranks.

In return for release of the hostages, the Kurds are demanding the return of fellow-Kurds deported to southern Iraq, especially the wives, mothers and sisters of Kurdish guerrillas taking part in the struggle.

The Kurds are said to be held in special internment camps. They also demand the release of all political prisoners.

## Roman Polanski indicted for assault on girl

From Our Own Correspondent  
New York, March 25

Roman Polanski, the film director, has been indicted in Los Angeles on charges of rape, sodomy and other sex offences against a girl of 13. The indictment was returned by a grand jury yesterday after Mr. Polanski had been arrested on March 11. He is now free on bail of \$2,500 (£1,450).

There are six counts against him: rape by use of drugs, lewd or lascivious acts against a child under 14, unlawful sexual intercourse, perversion, sodomy, and furnishing a drug to a minor.

According to the police, Mr. Polanski picked up the girl, telling her mother that he was taking her to a photography session, and took her to the home of Mr. Jack Nicholson, the film actor, who was away at the time. The girl's mother reported it to the police after hearing her daughter describe it on the telephone to a friend.

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Those who mistrust Soviet intentions in Africa might interpret his visit to Zanzibar as symbolising the beginning of a new colonial era for Africa. Not unnaturally, a perceptive President Podgorny insisted that his journey was designed only to cement ties between two progressive peoples who share similar ideologies.

In fact, there are few ties between the island and the

Soviet Union, fewer even than mainland Tanzania. Since the revolution, the island has been ruled by the late Sheikh Abid Karume, who in power 13 years ago, the Chinese have been the most active of the various foreign countries which maintain a presence here.

They have built a cigarette factory, a sugar mill, and an impressive sports stadium, and they supply most of the doctors in the Vladimir Lenin Hospital. The East Germans have built a huge complex of workers' flats, known locally as East Berlin, and now the Indians are becoming active in a number of projects.

Mr. Abid Karume, the island's leader and Vice-President of Tanzania, has developed a pragmatic approach towards foreign assistance and cooperation since he took over after Sheikh Karume's assassination in 1972. Indulging in a passion for fun

fair, he got the Japanese to build a permanent fairground just outside Zanzibar town complete with a big wheel and a miniature railway (the only railway on the island).

The Americans have installed one of the most modern athletics tracks in the world inside a Chinese-built stadium, the West Germans are helping to run the island's colour television network, and the local football team has a British coach.

Whether the visit produces any tangible benefits for Zanzibar remains to be seen. President Podgorny did leave behind a medal commemorating the fifteenth anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Union.

In exchange, he was given some books on the history of the Afro-Soviet Party which will doubtless help to whittle away the next stage of his African safari when he sets out for Zambia tomorrow.

## Fall of the Gang of Four not regarded as offering an opportunity to mend fences

# Peking sees dispute with Moscow continuing

From William Safire  
Peking

A Chinese Foreign Ministry official has rejected Western speculation that Peking's relations with Moscow might improve as a result of the Chinese campaign against the Gang of Four, the widow of Mao Tse-tung, and three other emphatically anti-Soviet Communist Party figures.

"I don't see any prospect of improvement of relations between the two countries," the official said in an interview.

He objected to suggestions in the West that Miss Chiang and the other members of the so-called "gang of four" might be more anti-Soviet than the present Chinese leadership. He described the anti-Soviet stand of the four as a sham and said their fall would have no effect on the future of Soviet-Chinese relations.

Asked what the Chinese reaction was to President Carter's criticism of the Soviet Union and elsewhere, the official replied: "A few intellectuals deprived of free speech is only a minor question."

In the Soviet Union the workers, the peasants and the intellectuals are all being oppressed."

The official asserted that China is the country where human rights are best observed. He said that more than 95 per cent of the people enjoyed human rights, adding that the rest "if they are receptive to reeducation" can also enjoy them.

He went on: "In the United States only 5 per cent of the population enjoys human rights, and 95 per cent don't have them. So if you criticize China on this point, we think it is ridiculous."

If the United States proposed that President Carter should visit China "we will give it consideration."

These statements came during a discussion of Chinese foreign policy that lasted three hours and 15 minutes. The diplomat agreed to the use of quotations but asked that he be identified only as a "responsible official in the Foreign Ministry". The interview was held in a large meeting room in the Foreign Ministry in the presence of three middle-level officials and through a Chinese in-

terpreter. Recording was not permitted.

The questioning began on the subject of Chinese-Soviet border talks, which after an 18-month lapse resumed in November and continued through February. A fierce skirmish between Chinese and Soviet troops took place seven years ago, and ever since border tension has been a measurement of Chinese-Soviet relations.

The official said there had been no substantial progress during the latest session, only an exchange of views.

Why no progress? Because the Soviet Union has gone back on what has already been agreed, the official replied. China had agreed to the definition of the disputed areas on the borders as given by Mr. Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, but the Russians had subsequently refused to recognize any disputed areas.

Although he would not estimate the size of the Soviet force now on the border—American defence officials have put the total at 500,000 men—the official said that Soviet armed forces in the East as a whole total a million men. "There has been no increase since 1972."

but their equipment has improved," he said.

Why now these troops as primarily directed against the United States, Japan and China?

Why the United States? "The main enemy of the Soviet Union is the United States," the official replied.

Why were the two sides so anxious about holding negotiations, the official asked himself. "Because each side thinks the other is the arch enemy. The Soviet Union is afraid of the United States and the United States is afraid of the Soviet Union. Neither side is sleeping well, so they have to hold negotiations. The United States is more afraid of the Soviet Union than the Soviet Union is of the United States—that's why more Americans go to the Soviet Union than Russians go to the United States."

Asked whether China's state-to-state relations with the Soviet Union could be improved, even though Communist Party hostility continued, the official said:

"Though we have disagreements with the Soviet Union on matters of principle, this should not hamper the development of normal state relations between the two countries on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence. China should not be held responsible for the worsening of relations between China and the Soviet Union. It is not up to China to improve relations."

China worried about an attack by the Soviet Union? Until the Soviet Union launches an attack against China, the official explained that the United States was the Soviet Union's main opponent in the world. "The emphasis lies in Europe, not Asia," he said.

On the issue of American relations with China, the questioner suggested that a Chinese guarantee of non-interference in regard to Taiwan would probably lead to United States recognition, which he said was not a "red line". "That would be tantamount to recognizing the right of the United States to interfere in the internal affairs of China. We can never accept that attitude."—New York Times News Service.



Welcome back for Mr Gerald Ford at the White House yesterday from President Carter as he pays his first visit there since leaving office.

## Moon children sent home to mother

From Peter Strafford  
New York, March 25

A San Francisco judge has ordered five young adults, all of them members of the Unification Church headed by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, to be handed over to their parents for 30 days of "deprogramming".

The decision by Judge Lee Vawter has aroused interest across the United States because it sets a precedent in the long-standing struggle between parents who feel that their children are being brainwashed and the church.

In the past several judges have issued similar rulings after private hearings. But on this occasion the Unification Church decided to challenge the parents in a public court. So both sides of the case were put to Judge Vawter during a 12-day hearing.

Witnesses for the parents, many of them former followers of Mr. Moon who had turned against his church, said that new members were coerced by poor diets and lack of sleep. A spokesman for the church said the five young people were genuine converts and that it was the "deprogrammers" who were the brainwashers.

The case concerned three women and two men, aged between 21 and 26. In his ruling Judge Vawter said: "This is a case about the very essence of life: mother, father and children. There is nothing closer in our society than the family. A child is a child, even though the parent might be 90 and the child 60."

The five all opposed their parents' move and played music or read poetry in court as a way of proving that their powers of creativity had not been impaired by church membership. After the hearing, one of the five, Mr. John Howard, aged 23, said: "This is very easy. This is like the mental institutions where they put dissidents in Russia."

One of the main groups on the parents' side was an organization called the Freedom of Thought Foundation, of Tucson, Arizona. Siding with the children was the American Civil Liberties Union.

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## Ex-President of Congo is executed

Brazzaville, March 25.—Mr. Alphonse Massamba-Debat, the former President of Congo, was executed by firing squad early today, the ruling military committee announced in Brazzaville.

Radio Brazzaville said yesterday that Mr. Massamba-Debat had confessed that he knew of the attempted coup which led to the murder of President Marien Ngouabi a week ago.

Two members of the four accused of having murdered President Ngouabi were still being hunted.

His Lordship said that Mr. Massamba-Debat had borne a grudge against Marien Ngouabi who ousted him from power in a coup by young officers in 1968.—Agence France-Presse.

Obituary, page 14

## Pained greeting awaits Mr Vance in Moscow

From Our Correspondent  
Moscow, March 25

Mr. Vance, the American Secretary of State, will be greeted rather modestly in Moscow tomorrow. The Soviet press has hardly accorded the impending visit the advance publicity its political importance merits.

This is doubtless designed to emphasize continuing Soviet annoyance over President Carter's gestures on behalf of dissidents. Further, an embargo has resulted from his recommendation to Congress on expanding broadcasts by Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty.

Tass accuses the new Administration of planning to use the Helsinki agreement on free exchange of information and ideas as a pretext for increasing the propaganda volume of these stations against the Soviet Union and other socialist states. It points out that the Helsinki agreement binds its signatories to refrain from forms of interference in each other's internal affairs.

Although the Soviet leadership seems determined to make plain to Mr. Vance its displeasure over what it claims are attempts to meddle in internal matters, this does not mean it has downgraded the actual importance of the visit. On the contrary it is a pretext to prevent the discussion from becoming bogged down in the human rights controversy and digressing from the main issues.

This could happen if Mr. Vance tries, as requested by leaders of the American Jewish community, to take up the issue of Soviet Jews on the pretext of the subject of dissidents' families. He is taking with him a representative list of some 300 cases of separation.

The Soviet side is determined to concentrate on limitation of strategic arms, reduction of forces, curbs on arms sales,

terms for reconvening the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East and demilitarization of the Indian Ocean. Talks with the Soviet leaders, including Mr. Brezhnev, the party chief, will take place during Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Fred Emery writes from Washington: Mr. Vance leaves here with more plaudits for President Carter's outspokenness in the cause of human rights. Fifty-seven senators today signed a letter of endorsement saying that the Soviet Union has no true world understanding unless formal human rights pledges were implemented.

Vice-President Mondale also delivered a firm recommitment in a New York speech. Mr. Brezhnev, while being informed that the Soviet Union's abuses were being singled out, was also being told there would be no let up.

Mr. Vance's party fully expects a stern lecture on arrival in Moscow about this "interference" in Soviet affairs. But the Carter gamble is that the Russians are prepared to put down the Soviet Union's abuse of human rights in return for an equitable superpower relations on such "gut" issues of averting a further nuclear arms race.

However, the Soviet leadership is now being asked to swallow Mr. Carter's latest insistence that "interference in a government is not a valid thing." It is against this background, and the otherwise extraordinary discursive on foreign affairs by Mr. Carter in his first two months in office, that the Moscow rendezvous has aroused such a cross current here of expectations and foreboding.

Law Report March 25 1977

Chancery Division

## Pensioners' review claim fails

Metzger and Others v Department of Health and Social Security

Before Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor  
Pensioners failed in a test case to establish that the Secretary of State for Social Services had adopted a wrong formula for determining increases in pensions to take account of inflation.

The case was based on a preliminary issue in proceedings by Mr. Leslie Metzger, of Cleve Road, Kilburn, and two others against the Department of Health and Social Security that in carrying out his statutory review under section 125(1) of the Social Security Act, 1975, of the sums specified in Schedule 4 to the Act, as amended, the Secretary of State was to do so in relation to such changes in the general level of earnings and prices as had occurred since the coming into effect of the Social Security (Benefits Up-Rating) Order, 1976, and in relation to such changes as had occurred since the end of the period to which the Secretary of State had last reviewed the sums specified in Schedule 4 to the Act, namely in May, 1975.

Mr. Alastair Dawson, QC, and Mr. Robert Carnwath for the pensioners; Mr. Peter Archer, QC, Solicitor General, and Mr. Peter Gibson for the department.

The Vice-Chancellor said that in broad terms the dispute concerned the Secretary of State's duty to carry out reviews of the sums of pension under the Act in order to determine whether they had retained their value in relation to the general level of earnings and prices and to make "up-rating" orders increasing those rates.

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as had or have occurred since the end of the period to which he had regard for the purpose of his last previous review under the said subsection 7.

Mr. Dawson for the pensioners contended for sense (2); the Solicitor General said (1). The Vice-Chancellor said that the Secretary of State was required merely to consider changes since the last review, and that the effect, if Mr. Dawson was right, he must go back to the end of the period considered when he made his last review, and with continuing inflation a longer time meant a greater amount.

The rate of pension for category A in Schedule 4 was £11.60 a week, but such rate by virtue of section 123(3) was subject to up-rating by orders made by the Secretary of State from year to year. Section 125(1) required a power, not a duty, to increase the rate.

Section 125 was different; it imposed a duty rather than a power and laid down obligations of time, providing a minimum, not a maximum for any increase in the rate of pension. A review in the tax year 1975-76 and each subsequent year to determine whether the sums specified in Schedule 4 had retained their value in relation to the general level of earnings and prices.

No formalities were laid down for such a review; section 125(2) provided that the Secretary of State should make an estimate of the general level of earnings and prices "in such manner as he thinks fit". In such manner as he thinks fit, the review showed that the sums in question had not retained their value but were lower than they had been when the last review was made, but the Secretary of State had retained their value, then his duty was, instead, lay a report explaining his reasons.

Mr. Dawson contended that a review must be carried back to the end of the period to which the previous review was based, not merely to the date when the rate was last increased under an up-rating order, which must come into force some months after the review. The effect of inflation in the period from April to November, 1975, had been based on a review of the sums in question for future calculations. A review, it was said, must look to the past, not make a forecast or prophecy for the future, and was demonstrated by the words of the sections.

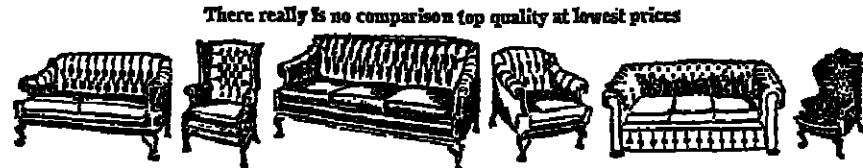
Those contentions appeared to the Vice-Chancellor to be based on a confusion of two separate processes: review and up-rating.

The pensioners' pensions were the weekly sums set out in Schedule 4. The issue was: "Was or is the Secretary of State under a duty to review such sums (1) in relation to such changes in the general level of earnings and prices as had occurred since the coming into effect of the Social Security (Benefits Up-Rating) Order, 1976, and in relation to such changes as had occurred since the end of the period to which the Secretary of State had last reviewed the sums specified in Schedule 4 to the Act, namely in May, 1975?"

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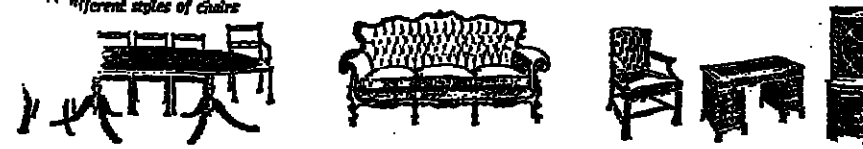
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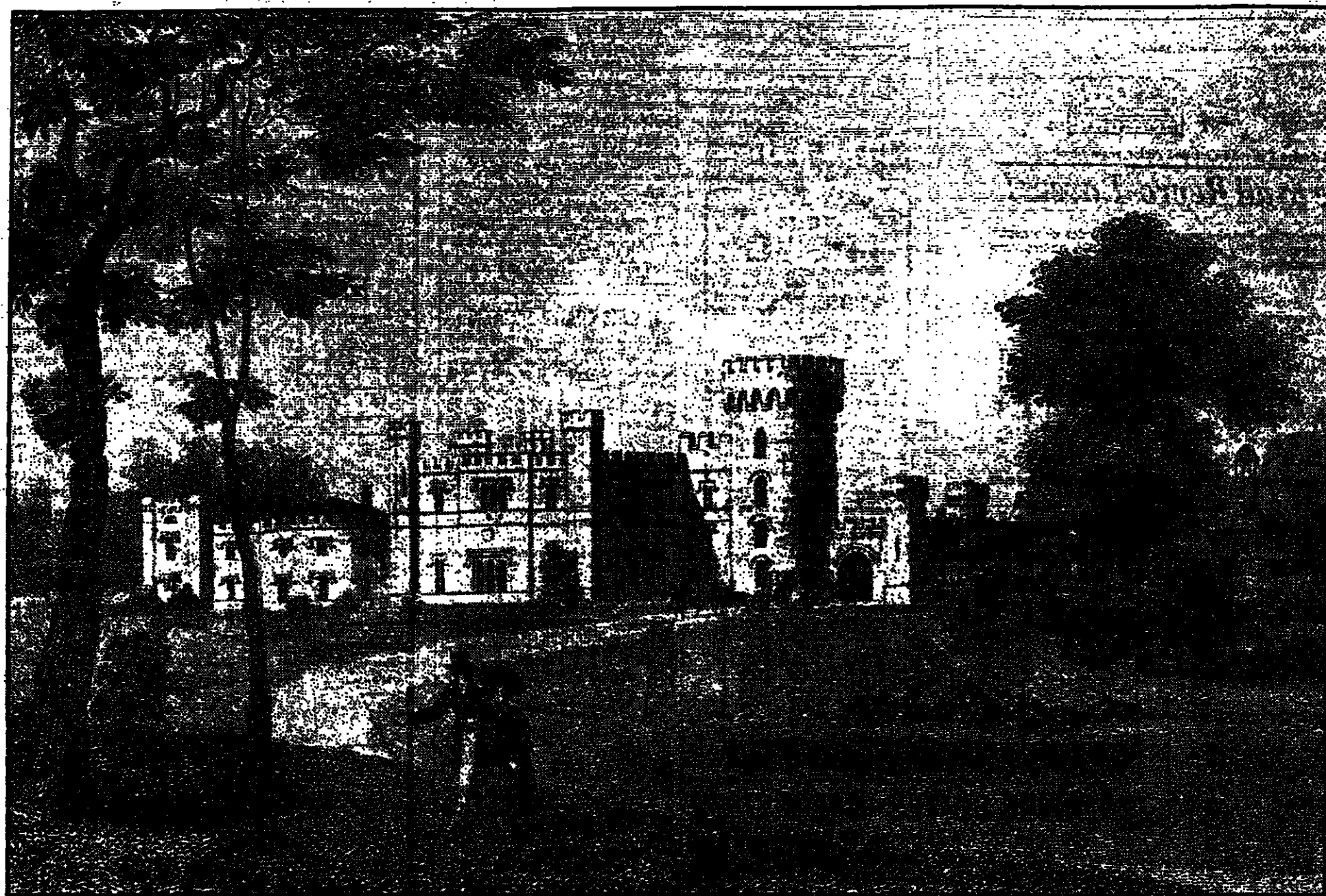
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# After the fall

by Jane Austen and Another

The next morning brought a great many visitors. It was the way of the place always to call on Mrs. Edwards the morning after a ball, and this neighbourly inclination was increased in the present instance by a general spirit of curiosity on Emma's account, as everybody wanted to look at the girl who had been admired the night before by Lord Osborne. Many were the eyes, and various the degrees of approbation with which she was examined. Some saw no fault, and some no beauty. With some her brown skin was the annihilation of every grace, and others could never be persuaded that she was half so handsome as Elizabeth Watson had been 10 years ago. The morning passed quickly away in discussing the merits of the ball with all this succession of company, and Emma was at once astonished by finding it two o'clock, and considering that she had heard nothing of her father's chair. After this discovery she had walked to the window to examine the street, and was on the point of asking leave to ring the bell and make inquiries, when the light sound of a carriage driving up to the door set her heart at ease. She stepped up to the window again, but instead of the convenient though very un-smart family equipage perceived a neat curricle. Mr. Musgrave was shortly afterwards announced; and Mrs. Edwards put on her very stiffest look at the sound. Not at all dismayed, by her charming air, he paid his compliments to each of the ladies with no unbecoming ease, and continuing to address Emma presented her a note, which he had the honour of bringing from her father, but to which he must observe a verbal postscript from himself would be requisite.

The note, which Emma was beginning to read rather before Mrs. Edwards had entreated her to use no ceremony, contained a few lines from Elizabeth impugning their father, in consequence of being unusually well, had taken the sudden resolution of attending the visitation that day, and that as his road lay quite wide from Dorking, it was impossible for her to come home till the following morning, unless she could send her carriage, which she hardly to be expected, or she could meet with any chance conveyance, or did not mind walking so far. She had scarcely run her eye through the whole, before she found herself obliged to listen to Tom Musgrave's further account.

"I received that note from the fair hands of Miss Watson only 10 minutes ago," said he. "I met her in the village of Stanton, whither my good stars prompted me to turn, my horse's head. She was at that moment in quest of a person to employ on the errand, and I was fortunate enough to convince her that she could not find a more willing or speedy messenger than myself. Remember, I say nothing of my disinterestedness. My reward is to be the indulgence of conveying you to Stanton in my curricle. Though they are not written down, I bring your sister's orders for the same."

Emma felt distressed; she did not like the proposal, she did not wish to be on terms of intimacy with the proposer, and yet, fearful of encroaching on the Edwards, as well as wishing to go home herself, she was at a loss how entirely to decline what he offered. Mrs. Edwards continued silent, either not understanding the case, or not wishing to see the young lady's inclination lay. Emma thanked him, but professed herself very unwilling to give him so much trouble. "The trouble was of course honour, pleasure, delight—what had he or his horses to do?" Still she hesitated. "She believed she must beg leave to decline his assistance—she was rather afraid of the sort of carriage the distance was not beyond a walk." Mrs. Edwards was silent no longer. "We shall be extremely happy, Miss Emma, if you can give us the pleasure of your company all tomorrow; and if you cannot, it is quite at your service, and Mary will be pleased with the opportunity of seeing your sister."

This was precisely what Emma had longed for, and she accepted the offer most thankfully, acknowledging that Elizabeth was entirely alone, it was her wish to return home to dinner. The plan was warmly opposed by their visitor—

"I cannot suffer it, indeed. I must not be deprived of the happiness of escorting you. I assure you there is not a possibility of fear with my horses. You might guide them yourself. Your sisters all know how quiet they are; they have none of them the smallest scruple in trusting themselves with me, even on a racecourse. Believe me," added he, lowering his voice, "you are quite safe—the danger is only mine."

Emma was not more disposed to oblige him for all this. "And as to Mrs. Edwards' carriage being used the day after a ball, it is a thing, quite out of rule. I assure you, never heard of before; the old coachman will look as black as his horses—won't he, Miss Edwards?"

No notice was taken. The ladies were silently firm, and the gentleman found himself obliged to submit.

"What a famous ball we had last night!" he cried, after a short pause. "How long did you keep it up after the Osbornes and I went away?"

"We had two dances more."

"It is making it too much of a fatigue, I think, to stay so late. I suppose your set was not very full?"

"Yes, quite as full as ever, except the Osbornes. There seemed no vacancy anywhere, and everybody danced with uncommon spirit to the last."

Emma said this, though against her conscience. "Indeed! Perhaps I might have looked in upon you again, if I had been aware of as much, for I am rather fond of dancing than not. Miss Osborne is a charming girl, is not she?"

"I do not think her handsome," replied Emma, to whom all this was chiefly addressed. "Perhaps she is not critically handsome, but her manners are delightful. And Fanny Carr is a most interesting little creature. You can imagine nothing more naive or piquant; and what do you think of Lord Osborne, Miss Watson?"

"That he would be handsome even though he were not a lord, and, perhaps, better bred; more dextrous of pleasing, and showing himself pleased in a right place."

"Upon my word, you are severe, upon my friend! I assure you Lord Osborne is a very good fellow. And Fanny Carr is a most interesting little creature. You can imagine nothing more naive or piquant; and what do you think of Lord Osborne, Miss Watson?"

"That he would be handsome even though he were not a lord, and, perhaps, better bred; more dextrous of pleasing, and showing himself pleased in a right place."

Emma gave him no encouragement, and he was obliged to keep his friend's secret. He was also obliged to put an end to his visit, for Mrs. Edwards having ordered her carriage, there was no time to be lost on Emma's side in preparing for it. Miss Edwards accompanied her home, but as it was dinner-time at Stanton, stayed with them only a few minutes. "Now my dear Emma,"

said Miss Watson, as soon as they were alone "you must talk to me all the rest of the day without stopping, or I shall not be satisfied. But first of all, I must hear how the dinner, poor thing! You will not dine as you did yesterday; for we have nothing but some fried beef. How nice Mary Edwards looks in her new pelisse! And now tell me how you like them all, and what I am to say to Sam. I have begun my letter; Jack Stokes is to call for it tomorrow, for his uncle is going within a mile of Guildford next day."

Nanny brought in the dinner. "We will wait upon ourselves," continued Elizabeth, "and then we shall lose no time. And so you would not come home with Tom Musgrave?"

"No. You had said so much against him that I could not wish either for the obligation or the intimacy which the use of his carriage must have created. I should not even have liked the appearance of it."

"You did very right; though I wonder at your forbearance, and I do not think I could have done it myself. He seemed so eager to fetch you that I could not say no, though it rather went against me to be throwing you together, so well as I knew his tricks; but I did long to see you, and it was a clever way of getting you home, besides, it won't do to be too nice. Nobody could have thought of the Edwards letting you have their coach, after the horses being out so late. But what am I to say to Sam?"

"If you are guided by me you will not encourage him to think of Miss Edwards. The father is decidedly against him, the mother shows him no favour, and I doubt his having any interest with Mary. She danced twice with Captain Hunter, and I think shows him in general as much encouragement as is consistent with her disposition and the circumstances she is placed in. She once mentioned Sam, and certainly with a little confusion—but that was perhaps owing to the consciousness of his liking her, which may very probably have come to her knowledge."

"Oh! dear, yes—she has heard enough of that from all. Poor Sam! He is out of luck, as well as other people. For the life of me, Emma, cannot help feeling for those that are crossed in love. Well, now begin, and give me an account of everything as it happened."

Emma obeyed her, and Elizabeth listened with very little interruption till she heard of Mr. Howard as a partner.

Dance with Mr. Howard. Good heavens! You don't say so! Why, he is quite one of the great and grand ones. Did you not find him very high?"

"His manners are of a kind to give me much more ease and confidence than Tom Musgrave's."

"Well, go on. I should have been frightened out of my wits to have had anything to do with the Osbornes set."

Emma concluded her narrative.

"And so you really did not dance with Tom Musgrave at all? But you must have liked him—you must have been struck with him altogether."

"I do not like him, Elizabeth. I allow his person and air to be good; and that his manner to a certain point—his address rather—is pleasing. But I see nothing else to admire in him. On the contrary, he seems very vain, very conceited, absurdly anxious for distinction, and absolutely contemptible in some of the measures he takes for being so. There is a ridiculousness about him that entertains me; but his company gives me no other agreeable emotion."

"My dearest Emma! You are like nobody else in the world. It is well Margaret is not by. You do not offend me though I hardly know how to believe you; but Margaret would never forgive such words."

"I wish Margaret could have heard him profess his ignorance of her being out of the country; he declared it seemed only two days since he had seen her."

"Aye, that is just like him; and yet this is the man, she will fancy so desperately in love with her, as you well know, Emma, but you must think him agreeable. Can you lay your hand on your heart, and say you do not?"

"Indeed I can, both hands; and spread to their widest extent."

"I should like to know the man you do think agreeable."

"His name is Howard."

"Howard! Dear me: I cannot think of him but as playing cards with Lady Osborne, and looking proud, must own, however, that it is a relief to me to find you can speak as you do of Tom Musgrave; my heart did misgive me that you would like him too well. You talked so stoutly beforehand, that I was sadly afraid your brag would be punished. I only hope it will last, and that he will not come on to pay you much attention; it is a hard thing for a woman to stand against the flattering ways of a man when he is bent on pleasing her."

As their quietly sociable little meal concluded, Miss Watson could not help observing how comfortably it had passed. "It is so delightful to me," said she, "to have things going on in peace and good humour. Nobody can tell how much I hate quarrelling. Now, though we have had nothing but fried beef, how good it has seemed. I wish everybody were as easily satisfied as you; but poor Margaret is very snappish, and Penelope owns she would rather have quarrelling going on than nothing at all."

Mr. Watson returned in the evening not the worse for the exertion of the day, and consequently pleased with what he had done and glad to talk of it over his own fireside. Emma had not foreseen any interest to herself in the occurrences

of a visitation; but when she heard Mr. Howard spoken of as the preacher, and as having given them an excellent sermon, she could not help listening with a quicker ear.

"I do not know when I have heard a discourse more to my mind," continued Mr. Watson, "or one better delivered. He reads extremely well, with great propriety, and in a very impressive manner, and at the same time without any theatrical grimace or violence. I own I do not like much action in the pulpit; I do not like the studied air and artificial inflexions of voice which your very popular and most admired preachers generally have. A simple delivery is much better calculated to inspire devotion, and shows a much better taste. Mr. Howard read like a scholar and a gentleman."

"And what had you for dinner, sir?" said his eldest daughter.

He related the dishes, and told what he had eaten himself. "Upon the whole," he added, "I have had a very comfortable day. My old friends were quite surprised to see me amongst them, and I must say that everybody paid me great attention, and seemed to feel for me as an invalid. They would make me sit near the fire; and as the partridges were pretty high, Dr. Richards would have them sent away to the other end of the table that they might not offend Mr. Watson, which I thought very kind of him. But what pleased me as much as anything was Mr. Howard's attention. There is a pretty steep flight of steps up to the room we dine in, which do not quite agree with my rusty foot, and Mr. Howard walked back and forth from the bottom to the top, and would make me take his arm. It struck me I had no claim to expect it; for never saw him before in my life. By the by, he inquired after one of my daughters, but I do not know which. I suppose you know among yourselves."

On the third day after the ball at Stanton, at five minutes before three, two gentlemen bustled into the parlour with the tray and knife-case, she was suddenly called to the front door by the sound of a smart rap as the end of a riding whip could give; and though charged by Miss Watson to let nobody in, returned in half a minute with a look of awkward dismay to hold the parlour door open for Lord Osborne and Tom Musgrave. The surprise of the young ladies may be imagined. No visitors would have been welcome at such a moment; but such visitors as these—such a one as Lord Osborne at least, a nobleman and a stranger—was really distressing.

He looked a little embarrassed himself, as, on being introduced by his easy, voluble friend, he muttered something of doing himself the honour of waiting upon Mr. Watson. Though Emma could not but take the compliment of the visit to herself, she was very far from enjoying it. She felt

all the inconsistency of such an acquaintance with the very humble style in which they were obliged to live; and having in her aunt's family been used to many of the elegancies of life, was fully sensible of all that must be open to the ridicule of richer people in her present home. Of the pain of such feelings, Elizabeth knew very little. Her simple mind, or juster reason, saved her from such mortification; and though shrinking under a general sense of inferiority, she felt no particular shame. Mr. Watson, as the gentlemen had already heard from Nanny, was not well enough to be downstairs. With much concern they took their seats; Lord Osborne near Emma, and the convenient Mr. Musgrave, in high spirits at his own importance, on the other side of the fireplace with Elizabeth. He was at no loss for words; but when Lord Osborne had hoped that Emma had not caught cold at the ball, he had nothing more to say for some time, and could only gratify his eye by occasional glances at his fair companion. Emma was not inclined to give herself much trouble for his entertainment, and after hard labour of mind, he produced a remark of his being a very fine day, and followed it up with the question of "Have you been walking this morning?"

"No, my lord. We thought it too dirty."

"You should wear half-boots. After another pause, he said, 'Nothing sets off a neat ankle more than a half-boot; nankeen, galoshes with black, looks very well. Do you not like half-boots?'"

"Yes, but unless they are so stout as to injure their beauty, they are not fit for country walking."

"Ladies should ride in dirty weather. Do you ride?"

"No, my lord."

"I wonder every lady does not. A woman never looks better than on horseback."

"But every woman may not have the inclination, or the means."

"If they knew how much it became them, they would all have the inclination; and I fancy, Miss Watson, when once they had the inclination, the means would soon follow."

"Your lordship thinks we always have our own way. That is a point on which ladies and gentlemen have long disagreed; but without pretending to decide it, I may say that there are some circumstances which even women cannot control. Female economy will do a great deal, my lord, but it cannot turn a small income into a large one."

Lord Osborne was silenced. Her manner had been neither sententious nor sarcastic, but there was a something in its mild seriousness, as well as in the words themselves, which made his lordship think; and when he addressed her again, it was with a degree of consideration totally unlike the half-awkward, half-careless style of his former remarks. It was a new thing with him to wish to please a woman; it

was the first time that he had ever felt what was due to a woman in Emma's situation; but as he was wanting neither in sense nor a good disposition, he did not feel it without effect.

"You have not been long in this country, I understand," said he, in the tone of a gentleman. "I hope you are pleased with it."

He was rewarded by a gracious answer, and a more liberal full view of her face than she had yet bestowed. Unused to exert herself, and happy in contemplating her, he then sat in silence for some minutes longer, while Tom Musgrave was chattering to Elizabeth, till they were interrupted by Nanny's approach, who, half-opening the door, and putting her head in, said:—

"Please, ma'am, master wants to know why he hasn't his dinner."

The gentlemen, who had hitherto disregarded every symptom, however positive, of the nearness of that meal, now jumped up with apologies, while Elizabeth called briskly after Nanny to tell Betty to "take up the fowls."

"I am sorry it happens so," she added, turning good-humouredly towards Musgrave, "but you know what early hours we keep."

Tom had nothing to say for himself, for he knew it very well, and such honest simplicity, such shameless truth, rather bewildered him. Lord Osborne's parting compliments took some time, his inclination for speech seeming to increase with the shortness of the term for indulgence. He recommended exercise in defiance of dirt, spoke again in praise of half-boots; begged that his sister might be allowed to send Emma the name of her shoe-maker; and concluded with saying, "My hounds will be hunting this country next week. I believe they will throw off at Stanton Wood on Wednesday at nine o'clock. I mention this in hopes of your being drawn out to see what's going on. If the morning's tolerable, pray do us the honour of giving us your good wishes in person."

The sisters looked at each other in astonishment when their visitor had withdrawn. "Here's an unaccountable honour!" cried Elizabeth at last. "Who would have thought of Lord Osborne's coming to Stanton? He is very handsome; but Tom Musgrave looks all the more monstrous and monstrous. His coming to see the two, I am glad he did not say anything to me; I would not have had to talk to such a great man for the world. Tom was very agreeable, was he not? But did you hear him ask where Miss Penelope and Miss Margaret were, when he first came in? It put me out of patience. I am glad Nanny had not laid the cloth, however; it would have looked so awkward; just the tray did not suit."

To say that Emma was not flattered by Lord Osborne's visit would be to assert a very unlikely thing, and describe a very odd young lady; but the gratification was by no means unalloyed. His coming was a sort of notice which might please her vanity, but did not suit her pride, and she would rather have known that he wished the visit without presuming to make it, than have seen him at Stanton.

Among other unsatisfactory feelings it once occurred to her to wonder why Mr. Howard had not taken the same privilege of coming, and accompanying his lordship, but she was willing to suppose that he had either known nothing about it, or had declined any share in a measure which carried quite a much imperiousness in its form as good breeding. Mr. Watson was very far from being delighted when he heard what had passed; a little peevish under immediate pain, and ill-disposed to be pleased, he only replied:—

"Phoo! Phoo! What occasion could there be for Lord Osborne's coming? I have lived here 14 years without being noticed by any of her family. It is some fooling of that idle fellow Tom Musgrave. I cannot return the visit. I would not if I could."

And when Tom Musgrave was met again, he was commissioned with a message of excuse to Osborne, and on the too sufficient plea of Mr. Watson's infirm state of health.

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## Records of the month

## O rare Callas, and rarer Massenet



Maria Callas as Lucia

whether or not we are listening to a live performance. The set ends with a round of handclapping and cheering, but there is silence at the close of the previous three acts. Do I hear the order coming from the Amman Committee? "No canned applause?"

On the credit side, CBS have kept the cost down—a penny under £9 is cheap for a three-record set—and they have given us a chance to hear a work which is generally dismissed. James Harding, Massenet's British biographer, can scarcely wait to get onto his next opera, *Esclarmonde*, and allocates *Le Cid* a mere two pages. The trouble, of course, is the libretto, which is generally dismissed as a different story to the other nations.

After this carrying let it be said that Plácido Domingo gives a heroic performance in the title role. It will be claimed that he is not an ideal Massenet tenor, but a couple of years ago the detractors were announcing that he could not, and should not, sing Otello and Walther von Stolzing. But Domingo can tackle virtually anything at the moment. He has previously recorded Rodrigue's aria "O souverain, o juge" (for RCA), and here he sounds equally fresh. Grace Bumbury's Chimène is less successful and there are too many squally notes, but Paul Plishka, a bass I have admired at the Met, is a rich and weighty Don Diego. The standard of the French is generally poor and suggests over-hasty preparation. Eve

Queler draws plenty of fire from the orchestra, not least in that ballet music which Kenneth MacMillan rather perversely drew for his Covent Garden *Manon*, the subject Massenet treated immediately before *Le Cid*.

Johann Strauss II's posthumously produced opera *Wiener Blut* has also had its detractors, primarily because he did not produce an original score for it. Feeling tired, or merely believing that he had done enough work for one lifetime, Strauss passed his commission to the Hungarian musician Adolf Müller to complete an opera from what he had composed already. Müller did his job admirably and some one had the sense to commission the text from two young librettists, Viktor Leon and Leo Stein, who were later to work

with Lehár. The book has a strong forecast of Schnitzler, with its Vienna where aristocrats dally with dancers and handmaids before returning to their own class. Nicolai Gedda is right back on form as Graf Zedlau, a fore-runner of Lehár's Count Danilo, who finds high life and lower life equally enjoyable. Anneliese Rothenberger's tone as his censorious wife is a little pinched at times and she is outshone by Renate Holm as the ballet dancer Frenzi. There are delicious performances by a number of Vienna-born singers led by Heinz Zednik. Willi Boskovsky opts for an Hungarian orchestra, but when was Vienna ever short of Hungarian musicians? The sound is excellent and this set is highly recommended, apart from a textbook, sloppily produced and printed and often bearing

John Higgins

## Uncapricious

Rachmaninov: Caprice Bohémien. Balakirev: First Symphony. USSR/Soviet Union. EMI ASD 3315, £3.50.

Sibelius: First Symphony. Finlandia. Boston SO/C. Davis. Philips 9500 140, £3.50.

Ravel: Bolero. Debussy: Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune. La Mer. Chicago SO/Solti. Decca SXL 6813, £3.50.

Mendelssohn: Violin Concertos in E minor and D minor. Philips cassette 7300 522, £3.50.

Mendelssohn: First and Fifth Symphonies. VPO/Dohnanyi. Decca SXL 6818, £3.50.

Prokofiev: Violin Concertos in D and G minor. Chung/LSO. Previn. Decca SXL 6775, £3.50.

Prokofiev: Fifth Symphony. LSO/Weller. Decca SXL 6787, £3.50.

At the time of the Rachmaninov centenary EMI produced a box devoted to the composer's orchestral works in Soviet Russian performances recorded by Melodiya. The contents were not quite comprehensive but the gaps are gradually being filled from the same source. One real rarity, appears this month, the *Caprice Bohémien*, written in 1894, and here given a strongly felt, grandly played, account by Yevgeny Svetlanov and the USSR Symphony Orchestra.

The form is that of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodies, a slow section followed by a fast one, but the slow, grief-laden music predominates and the quicker *Fris* is repetitive and almost perfunctory. One bold suggestion is that the cut of the themes, the harmony, and the scoring are all characteristic of later Rachmaninov (even to prefigurations of the

third symphony and fourth piano concerto), and there are curious cross-currents to the early Sibelius in nearby Finland.

The uncapricious Caprice is used on record as curtain-raiser to Balakirev's first symphony. Devotees of that work are likely to own Beecham's famous performance on disc. Svetlanov's reading is more brilliant and incisive, less romantic, a quite different approach that brings its own rewards; Melodiya sound these days is clean, vivid and sumptuous.

The connection of Rachmaninov with Sibelius was the more obvious after listening to Sibelius's first symphony, coupled with *Finlandia*, the second instalment of Colin Davis's current enterprise with the Boston Symphony Orchestra for Philips. Davis takes a rather dense view of the first and third movements, and the finale does not cohere completely (partly the composer's fault). He is impressive in the second movement's melancholy and moving passion, also in the big tone which triumphs over the finale. The Boston brass section are in sterling form, and much care is given to nuance everywhere and to textural detail. The cassette version, equally immediate in sound, fits the first three movements on one side one, not entirely a gain since a feature of Davis's reading is the immediate entry of the finale after the scherzo.

Another great American orchestra, that of Chicago, turns up with its regular conductor Sir Georg Solti to French music. The prospect of Ravel's *Bolero* as filler for two favourite Debussy works seemed tedious, but in the event the performance is musically and gracefully enjoyable, with an elegantly loping pulse, constant pleasure in the orchestral colours, and

especially smoochy glissandi from the marvellous tenor saxophone soloist. Debussy's *Après-midi* is done with manifest tenderness and glorious string sound. The principal work on the record is Debussy's *La Mer*, a strong and individual interpretation, smartly paced but not lacking in perception, though some may find the last movement too hectic even for a dialogue between sea and wind. My own principal reservation is not about pace but about a shortage of delicate nuance below, say *poco forte*. An appealing seascape, all the same.

Finally two great composers of violin concertos: Salvatore Accardo couples the famous E minor Mendelssohn (best in the central movement, rather affected of expression in the outer ones) with an attractive reading of the youthful D minor concerto, revived some years ago by Menuhin. Two of the less favoured Mendelssohn symphonies are sympathetically conducted by Christoph von Dohnanyi with the Vienna Phil at its grandest and most sensitive; I have seldom enjoyed the Reformation Symphony so much. Krung-Wia Chung couples both Prokofiev concertos, conquering their Finnish technical difficulties effortlessly, but biding her intention sometimes to the verge of ugliness, a J pulling the melodies about as if they were gypsy cat's paws. Provin and the LSO too. Justifiably accompanied by a certain discouraged loyalty, Accardo's new recording of Prokofiev's fifth symphony finds the LSO in top form under Valter Weller, a spectacular account capriciously produced.

William Mann

□ indicates cassette version. Prices are the same unless otherwise stated.

## Completing the sets

Brahms/Schumann: The Complete String Quartets. Quartetto Italiano. Philips 6703 029, £7.50, (3 records).

Brahms: Deutsche Volkslieder. Edith Mathis/Peter Schreier/Karl Engel. DG 2536 279, £3.59.

Brahms: Piano Partitions, Op. 117, Op. 118, Op. 119. Dmitri Alexeev. HMV Melodica (SQ) HQS 1370, £7.50.

Schumann: Fantasiestücke, Op. 12, Kinderszenen, Op. 15, Arabeske, Op. 18, Homage to Franz Schubert. DG 2530 644, £3.59.

List: Operatic Partitions and Paraphrases. David Wilde. Saga 5437, £1.50.

Only the first string quartets of Brahms and Schumann from the Quartetto Italiano have ever previously released in this country, so it is good to find

Philips now offering the complete set of six—three each—from this splendid team, who lavish equal affection on both composers (and it is hard to think of a pair who would have been happier to share the same box) while clearly differentiating them.

The abnormally self-critical Brahms is known to have suppressed many youthful experiments in this medium before giving the world the first two of his three quartets in 1873 at 40, and the third two years later. In any case he always found it easier than Schumann to translate strong romantic impulse within classical forms, so he speaks more authoritatively alike in C minor drama (No 1), a minor reflection (No 2) and B flat major exuberance (No 3). Schumann, in comparison, is less sturdy, but less predictable, too, more prepared to surrender to youthful flights

of fancy even though struggling hard at 32 (all three quartets date from 1842) to emulate the disciplined craftsmanship of his good friend, Mendelssohn. The playing throughout is so characterful as it is refined, and given fine bloom in the recording should make this box a must for all quartet lovers.

Nothing was a more abiding source of inspiration to Brahms than German folk-song, no matter whether genuine age-old Volkslied or more recently composed tunes in the folk-song style. A couple of years ago DG did him proud in this field in a three-disc box including several choral arrangements (some for children) as well as the 42 folk-songs he arranged for voice and piano towards the end of his days. Now these records are coming to us individually, starting with 22 of the solo songs from Edith Mathis and Peter Schreier with Karl Engel at the piano.

Comparison is inevitable with that delightful but now deleted HMV offering from Schwarzkopf, Fischer-Dieskau and Moore (with excellent notes and translations by William Mann). Usually singing a tone higher, and often with more vibrato, than Schwarzkopf, Mathis has a way of making some of the songs sound a little less folksy, perhaps even a little too much like *Lieder*. But there is infinite pleasure in the disc all the same (it could scarcely be otherwise with Schreier as her partner), despite the fact that the reissue includes texts but not the essential explanatory notes of the original.

The piano pieces of Opp. 117, 118 and 119 in which Dmitri Alexeev makes his English debut-on-disc also date from Brahms's more reserved and confidential later years. A somewhat unusual choice, perhaps, for this exuberant young Russian prizewinner of the last Leeds International Contest,

and in curbing his own energy he once or twice even slows down Brahms's pulse too. But his searching style is agreeably warm-toned and undidactic (except for one curious misreading of the text in Op. 117, No 1) and the recording has depth to match even if a touch of plummety too.

As for Schumann at the piano, Lazar Berman does him good service by coupling the F sharp minor and G minor sonatas—which no one else does in the catalogue. His way with the F sharp minor work is expansively romantic and free in comparison with the more Apollonian Pollini, but the music can take it; what often sounds merely procrastination in the outer movements emerges warmly and exuberantly alive. The urgent drive of the G minor sonata allows Berman less chance to luxuriate in this or that on the way, but there is the same succulent ripeness of style in the slow movement. The recording

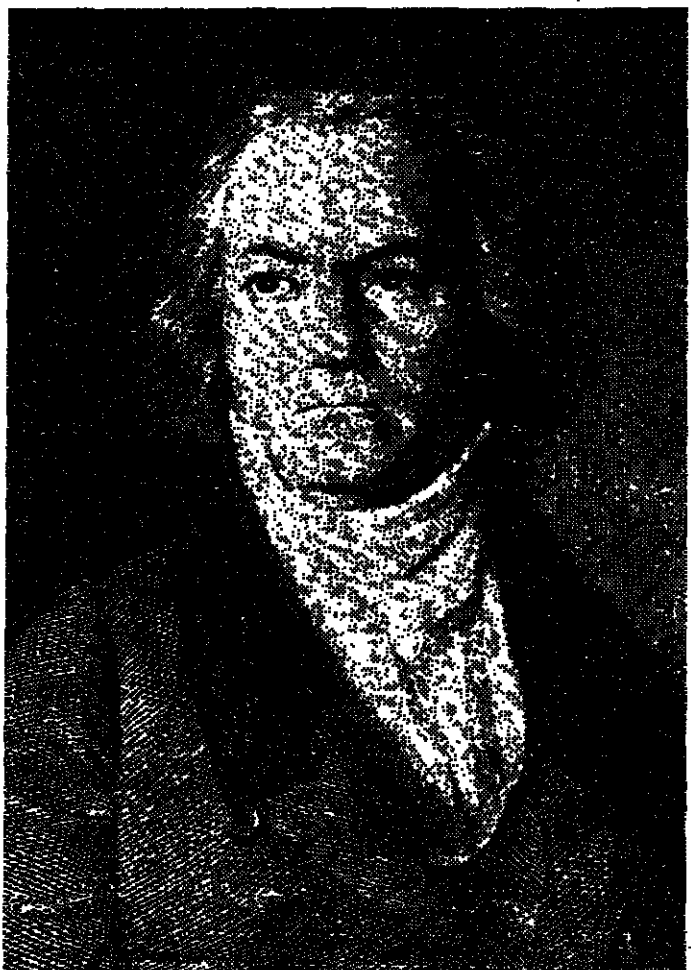
is generously reverberant. Homero Francesch, first introduced to us in DG's Debut series, returns after three years in a coupling of Schumann's *Kinderszenen*, done with delightful simplicity and finesse, and *Fantasiestücke*, where pursuit of expression sometimes drives him to excesses. But plainly a young man to be watched.

Neither Schumann nor Brahms had much time for Liszt except as a virtuoso pianist. Posterity has better understood the qualities of mind and heart of the former, not least in the formerly maligned operatic transcriptions. David Wilde rescues less played *Duchman*, *Lohengrin* and *Tristan* samples as well as familiar reminiscences of *Lucia* and *Norma* with skillful and evocative of mood and texture to allow you to forgive the poor quality of recorded tone.

Joan Chissell

Ned Chafflet interviews Barrie Keefe, whose play *Gimme Shelter* is at the Royal Court. Page 10.

## Beethoven's anniversary



Beethoven

Beethoven: Late Piano Sonatas. Brendel. Philips 6747 312, £7.50.

Beethoven: Violin Sonatas Op. 30 Nos 2 and 3. Grumiaux/Arrau. Philips 9500 220, £3.50.

Beethoven: Complete String Trios. Heifetz/Primrose/Platigorsky. RCA SER 5729 31, £10.47.

Mozart: Mature Symphonies. Concertgebouw Orch/Josef Krips. Philips 6747 130, £2.50.

Mozart: Flute Concerto K313 and Andante K315; Oboe Concerto K314. Michel Debost, Maurice Bourgue/Orchestre de Paris/Rosenboim. HMV ASD 3320, £3.50.

Schubert: String Quartet in G D887; Quartet movement in C D703. Gabrieli Quartet. Decca Ace of Diamonds, SDD 512. KSDC 512, £2.50.

Beethoven died 150 years ago today and the record companies have been commemorating the event none as comprehensively as Deutsche Grammophon, who characteristically have reissued his complete works.

There are two contributions from Philips. They have brought together as a boxed set Alfred Brendel's justly admired readings of the last six sonatas, from Op. 90 to Op. 111. Brendel's style is, I suppose, more distinctive than that of any other pianist prominent today, with its particular pensive quality and its concentration on the feeling behind the notes. It may not be to everyone's taste. I admit that I sometimes find it too quiet, but the music is profound, or that Brendel finds it profound, or even that he wants us to find it profound, but that he is concerned above all to make us realize that he finds it profound.

That, perhaps, is a consequence of his deliberation, his determination to leave no expressive stone unturned. Yet it is not exactly that sparseness is lacking, for it does not seem to be studied or cerebral playing in any sense—Brendel obviously feels everything he does, very intensely, while he is doing it. What is perhaps wanting is a certain directness or a strong physical impulse built on a firm underlying rhythmic basis. In short, there is much that is subtle, observant and deeply musical about this set; and one could not often expect to hear per-

formances as inward or softly-drawn as that of Op. 110 or as quietly exalted as that of Op. 111 to end the set.

By contrast the violin sonata disc from Grumiaux and Arrau at once impresses for its quality of natural and relaxed music-making, rare indeed on records. The performance is beautifully wrought, the detail well coordinated, the balance sensitively managed. Grumiaux's sweet, warm tone and easy phrasing are paralleled by Arrau, nowhere more happily than in the exquisite slow movement of the G major sonata, where Beethoven was understandably reluctant to do more with his theme than go on repeating it. The C minor by contrast has a proper thrust and storminess.

The box of trios is surprising. There is a certain fascination about these glassy, rapid performances. What

more can one ask than three of the world's great virtuosos? Well, for a start, a trio: three times one is clearly less than one times three. These virtuosos obviously prefer to preserve a measure of independence, a larger measure than is usually held proper in chamber music. Every note and every accent is in place, but the whole sounds harsh and dry, and almost totally inexpressive. I base this review on only the first two discs, with Op. 3 and Op. 9 Nos 1 and 3, as my box turned out to contain Nos. 1, 2 and 1 again; should the person with Nos. 3, 2 and 3 be reading this, perhaps he could contact me towards arranging a swap.

The new Philips recording of Mozart's "nature symphonies" comes with Arthur Schnitzler's book *Mozart the Man*, perhaps partly to make up for the inadequacy of the accompanying notes. Josef Krips's Mozart style is familiar, the Concertgebouw is in fine form, and there is much on these eight discs to enjoy. Less perhaps in the earlier works (Mozart's maturity is maybe prematurely dated; the No. 21 of 1772, he was 16) than in the later, the well nourished sound, with balance favouring the strings, and the unusually resonant recording serve better in his Viennese symphonies. And Krips is less at home in the youthful music: some of it sounds hefty when it needs to be lithe (No. 24) and occasionally it lacks vitality (No. 25 finale) or expressive feeling (No. 22 slow movement).

But comparing these performances with the big Böhm set (DG), I find myself by and large preferring them. They are less precise and less disciplined, but they do show a varied and rich response to the music in a characteristically relaxed, Viennese way. No. 29 is attractively warm and reflective, the Paris dully grandiose, No. 34 properly sturdy, the Linz finely spirited (though not its finale), I enjoyed the Prague while aware that others might make more of certain things in it, and draw the music more strongly together. That, perhaps, applies generally to the last three. No. 39 predictably thrives on Kripsian warmth and soft edged playing. No. 40 is surely too relaxed, with very moderate outer movements and little real tension anywhere; it seems an old-fashioned view of it, dating back 50 or 100 years, not to Mozart's day. The "Jupiter", however, has a genial performance, by no means without its proper grandeur.

A brief note on my last two discs. The Mozart concerto coupling is convenient and sensible; but I find the performances less interesting and certainly less polished than one expects from Barenboim, even a little perfunctory, and to English ears the French oboist sounds excessively active. The young Gabrieli Quartet do rather jump in at the deep end with Schubert's G major; if their reading lacks at some points the ideal richness and subtlety, it is still very accomplished indeed, strong and unaffected, with uncommon technical command and many sensitive things—among them a remarkably beautiful account of the third movement's trio.

Stanley Sadie

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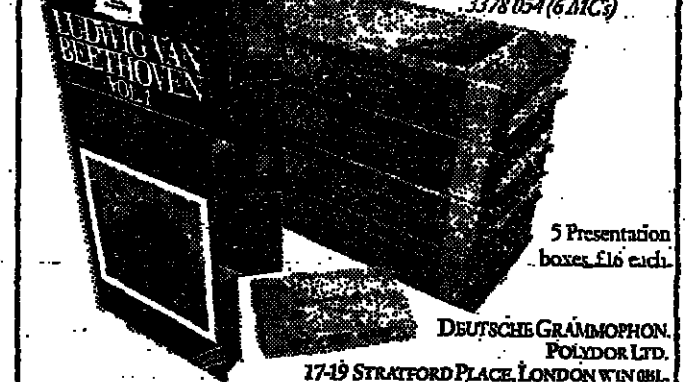
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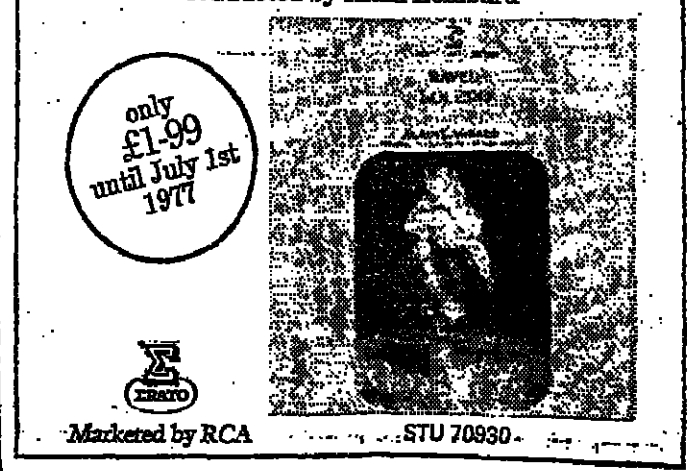


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## Good Food Guide Eating in dialect

A reminder that unfrid Italy is only just over 100 years old came from a recent survey by Pisa University, which showed that only 25 per cent of Italians actually speak pure Italian among themselves (the rest prefer their native dialects). The same marked regionalism characterizes Italian food. There is certainly at least as much difference between Sicilian and Tuscan cooking as there is between Spanish and Portuguese.

The difficulty facing the visitor who is set on enjoying this gastronomic diversity is the unwelcome ubiquity of another "province"—an all-Italian restaurant escapee, the ubiquitous, bland, milky, spaghetti bolognese, pizza napoletana and steak pizzadella, on lines similar to London's Italian food.

Restaurants in Italy seem to regard these dishes as the tourist's delight. Unfortunately they are often right.

But with a little persistence and luck, the genuine regional article can be found.

In Venice, where food and hotels are dearer than elsewhere in Italy for comparable quality, the problem is less in finding the local speciality (fish) than in steering clear of tourist traps. Generally speaking, these can be detected by their proudly displayed menus in English, German, French and, yes, Italian, complete with the respective national flags. But people who complain that Venice is infested by tourists have clearly never bothered to wander down the side alleys leading off the well-trodden thoroughfares that link the Piazza San Marco, the Rialto, the Accademia and the station. There are quiet, tree-shaded squares almost entirely free of pedestrian traffic, and trattorie too, though they can be hard to spot. There is nothing to suggest that the creature featured in the ancient building used to house the College of Doctors, except for the menu which is stuck in the window and maybe an exquisite whiff of grilled fish.

Inside, a distinctively cool Venetian atmosphere is created by the high ceiling, dark furniture, bare striped wallpaper, and pin-striped professional lunch, the la Vidia's specialties—risotto con gamberi (shrimp), risotto con polenta, even the pepper in the risotto (pepper, in green, your sauce)—all epitomes of Prince Casanovi's motto that "things should taste of what they are".

The same sort of fare will be found at a similarly unobtrusive Venetian restaurant, the Antica Besseta, which is extremely difficult to find even on a second visit. A typical menu, recited by the owner, Signor Volpe, might include canocchie (a subtly flavoured species of scampi), potato gnocchi, seppie (cuttlefish) with polenta in not too overpowering sauce, a large mountain of frogs' legs cooked in batter, and eel (skinned, boned, split open and grilled). Even the mixed

salad is lifted by the addition of Treviso chicory and rocket. Desserts, often a weak point in Italian restaurants, here include a deliciously tangy semifreddo with bitter chocolate and whisky.

The Antica Besseta's pleasant 1974 Pinot and Cabernet wines from nearby Treviso are bottled by Signor Volpe himself. This practice is uncommon, and as a general rule it is difficult to order interesting wine in all but the most expensive Italian restaurants. Either they offer little beyond second-rate Chianti or carafe wine (though the latter is excellent value at its virtually standard price of 1,000 lire per litre), or they do not know what the bottles in their cellars contain.

Another place that bottles its own wine (Lambrusco and Sangiovese) is the Al Desevò in Parma, a smart but unstuffy ristorante where bourgeois families—children, grandparents and all—gather for Sunday lunch.

At Al Desevò you naturally begin with their special Parmesan, a plate of coppa, sausage, culatello di zibello (rump of pork cured like the ham), and Parma Ham, cut, as it should be, so thin that it is almost transparent. Subtle variations on the pig can be pursued into the main course with salmone fresco di maiale (home-made sausage), which comes with ceps when in season, or pork cooked in milk that is reduced to a delicious, nutty sauce. The side ally, a chunk of Parmesan has the proper texture of quartz, grating, though yellow, and is at once sweet, salt and pungent to the palate. The semi-freddo is home-made, as is the Nocino, made from green walnuts, sugar, cloves, cinnamon and lemon peel steeped in fruit spirits.

It is reliably reported that two old favourites, the Don Chisciotte in Bologna, and Sostanza in Florence, are keeping up their standards. The Don Chisciotte is celebrated for its turkey alla peroniana, while Sostanza (known disrespectfully by the locals as Il Troia—the harlot) is still regularly thronged with its curious heterogeneous clientele, who have come to savour the monstrous Florentine steaks and superb meringue cake. But there are pleasures to be had in wine bars too, if sight-seeing leaves you time for only a snack. Focaccia, via Alaberna 15, Bologna, offers a special range of Italian wines; and the Fiacchetta (via de Neri 2, Florence) is a crowded stand-up joint with few wines but some delicious out-of-the-ordinary nibbles, such as crostini and deliziosi, roast tripe served cold with salsa verde.

Panforte is to Siena as rock is to Brighton. But it need hardly be said that the two sweetmeats are not in the same organoleptic league: panforte, which is not in fact all that sweet, is a concoction of crystallized orange and lemon peel, melon, almonds, hazelnuts, honey and cloves, and the deliciously packaged version of it that finds its way into a few British shops can give little idea of the rich, reverberating experience afforded by the 1-inch-thick

slabs of panforte available in Sienese pasticceria and restaurants.

Just off the superb Piazza del Campo, where they race the breakneck Palio horse races, there is the Ristorante Mariotti—da "Mugolone". Its stark decor and lighting are disturbingly reminiscent of a staid British provincial restaurant. But do not be put off—the food is on a different plane. Every Sunday and Monday (as a result of the Italian national sport, weekend shopping) the menu includes pappardelle (a kind of tagliatelle) with a strong hare sauce, a nice change from the usually bland run of pasta accompaniments. Also well worth trying are the brain fritters, served very hot, and the baccalotti properly cooked through (this is not always the case in Italy), and the casserole farafalla (guinea-fowl). But perhaps the most interesting dish, precisely because it is found so rarely in restaurants, is the savoury sfornato di verdura (the verdura here being spinach), which is described by Elizabeth David as "a cross between a soufflé and what we should call a pudding".

As one goes further south, there is a noticeable acceleration in the rhythm and style of Italian restaurants. In Rome, service can be impeccable or even curt, particularly in the trendy and overpriced Trastevere area. But what is at its best, as it is at the Ambasciata d'Abruzzo, the waiters succed in being eagle-eyed, unobtrusive and friendly even under the most hectic conditions (aim to go there at lunchtime if possible—it is quieter).

However, the main reason for trekking out to this restaurant, which is inconspicuously located in the residential Parioli area, is not the excellence of the service but the authenticity of the country food, which is served in the same quantities at a startlingly low price.

The meal begins with a whole cooked ham covered with crushed peppercorns being heaved on to your table. When you have carved as much as you want, they bring a mound of brown and a basket of five different kinds of salame. After an interlude (mozzarella and/or ricotta cheese), you are invited to leave your table and help yourself to a huge assortment of antipasto from a sideboard. There follows a selection of three different types of pasta including a delicious ravioli con spinaci. The "main" course ranges from Abruzzo peasant specialties such as meat balls or pork rind and beans to the more subtle boccadelli, which are lightly flavoured with mint and rosemary (this is a dish worth going out of your way to taste). For those who can manage them, cheese and dessert are also thrown in. But a far more refreshing end to the meal is the traditional platter of raw celery and Florence fennel. Coffee then arrives, with Amaro to help with the considerable task of digestion.

The bill, which covers everything including as much wine as you want, is guesswork: according to Signor Mariotti, it can vary from 5,000L to 7,000L (depending on your intake). The style and cuisine of their restaurant is indeed a far cry from that of the more formal Besseta in Venice. Viva la differenza!

La Vidia, Campo S. Giacomo dell'Orto 1507, Venice. Tel. 28931. Closed Monday. Meal about 5,000L.

Antica Besseta, S. Croce N. 1395, Calle Antica al Bar, Venice. Tel. 37607. Closed Wednesday. Meal about 5,000L.

Al Desevò, via Bruno Longhi 3, Parma. Tel. 30146. Closed Monday. Meal about 5,000L.

Don Chisciotte, via degli Albani 7, Bologna. Tel. 239038. Closed Wednesday. Meal about 7,000L.

Sostanza, via della Porcellana 25, Florence. Tel. 272691. Closed Sunday. Meal about 7,000L.

Mariotti—da "Mugolone", via Pellegrini 5, Siena. Tel. 28335. Closed Thursday. Meal about 5,000L.

Ambasciata d'Abruzzo, via Tacchini 26, Rome. Tel. 87256. Closed Sunday. Meal about 6,000L.

G Times Newspapers Ltd. and the Good Food Guide (Consumers' Association and Hodder), 1977.

## Theatre Barrie Keeffe: the play's the thing

At the age of 31 Barrie Keeffe has reluctantly conceded that he will never play professional football; moreover, he has recently given up the regular wages of a reporter for the *Stratford Express*. Since June of last year he has been making his living entirely through playwrighting, even though he is considerably surprised if any of his plays earn more than £100. Had there been any word in the circle of the Royal Court Theatre where he was speaking, he would have touched it.

A production which has already achieved more than token success is the Soho Poly Theatre Club's presentation of his trilogy, *Gimme Shelter*, which is now at the Royal Court. Theatregoers who were turned away from the packed-out showings at the Soho Poly may be getting a taste of the new regime at the Court when they see the production there, for

two of the trilogy's short plays were turned down by the Court when they were first submitted. Those two, *Gem* and *Gatcha*, were first staged individually at the Soho Poly before the theatre's artistic director, Verity Bargate, arranged a showing of the trilogy as a major new fringe touring company, the Network, picked up the production.

Unlike many of the younger generation of playwrights, university did not figure in Keeffe's background. He was born in East Ham, London, and, after attending grammar school there, went on to a variety of jobs, some of which, like sports and journalism, have provided material for his plays. But, though writing was long an interest and despite two years as an actor with the National Youth Theatre, it was not plays that interested him at first.

A novel, *Gadabout*, written when he was 18, was published

in 1969. He thinks it was a bad novel: "Mercifully, it's out of print. I've bought up great piles of them when I've seen them on remainder at railway stations. I've spent a fortune buying up the bloody things."

It was a mishap with his second novel which led him to write his first play, a television play called *The Substitut*, which Granada did in 1972. After the first novel, "I wrote a second one which was going to be the great East End novel. It was very, very long; about a quarter of a million words and it spanned three generations of Cockneys."

"I was taking it round to a girl friend to get it typed—it sounds very stupid but I didn't have a carbon copy as it was a first draft, covered with corrections and she was in a hurry to get it typed. I had it in my car and went for a drink with some friends. I came back—I had a souped-up Mini car with racing seats—and the racing seats had been

nicked, the wheels had been nicked and there were a few things in a bag in the back. I thought, 'I've seen the manuscript of the novel, which had also been nicked.'

"I went really crazy for quite a long time. It had been nearly three years' work. I couldn't even think about rewriting it. That's when the idea came of taking one strand of it and making it into a play. I never occurred to me to write plays before then. Now I'm sort of grateful to the thief. I've taken about three plays directly from the novel. I'd never thought about doing plays and it was a great joy, a great liberation, to get into that."

The first play, apart from Christmas pantomimes, that he ever saw was a Theatre Workshop production of Joan Littlewood's *theatre*, "literally down the road", where he was taken on a school outing. "It was a play called *High Street China*, just before *Oh, What a Lovely War*. It wasn't a memorable Theatre Workshop production, it's no part of their history. But it was an amazing experience because it was the first time I confronted people living a life I recognized. The first time I realized the theatre could articulate East End life."

In his plays Keeffe tries to articulate the life of people he knows and sees, those who normally have no voice in the theatre. In *Gatcha* he has written with passion about a boy on his way to a comprehensive school who finally responds to the systematic and unthinking brutality of his schoolmasters and prepares to blow up the headmaster and two teachers. In *Abide With Me*, Keeffe included with *Gimme Shelter* in the Theatre Workshop's series, he writes with sympathy and understanding about three Manchester United supporters stuck without tickets outside the gates of Wembley Stadium on Cup Final day.

His characters are alienated within the British class system and rendered impotent by it. A legacy of his schoolboy visits to the Theatre Workshop, which has not yet shown interest in his scripts, is a devo-

tion to subjects and characters which may not be considered suitable for the West End. Thus far, although his play *Series* made the journey from Newcastle to the Greenwich Theatre, and *Gimme Shelter* has made it to the Royal Court, he has never written for the West End, having in mind perhaps Joan Littlewood's commercialized and successful transfers.

Keeffe's next project is a collaboration with Britain's leading experimental company, Joint Stock, on a play in the manner of Jacobean comedies. It will take the same name as Thomas Middleton's *A Mad World, My Masters*, but just what final form it will take is still a matter of time. It will not be until the first performance.

In the meantime, as Thames Television's resident dramatist at the Shaw Theatre, he will be writing a play for the National Youth Theatre as he has done for the past two years. Television commissions are in line and two of the plays in his trilogy will be seen on television, separately, in the next few months. He also has a commission from the National Theatre which has been held up while his union, the Theatre Writers' Union to which most of Britain's playwrights now belong, is negotiating for recognition.

His journalistic habits have not yet died and his wish to be able to write two hours a day, or so, then go about his leisure, have given way to familiar deadline desperation and all-night sessions at the typewriter. Because rock music has been a part of his life and he would like to bring some of that energy back into the theatre, he carefully stores recordings into his plays, ever-widening the background of a particular record, trying to catch its feel for about 20 seconds. His favourite is the Rolling Stones' *Rolling Gold*, was his soundtrack for *Gatcha*, previously he used the Beatles' *Let It Be* and Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks* while he was writing *Jog the Joint*. Stock play he has been listening to the Beach Boys' greatest hits.

Ned Chaffel

## Gardening Spray a while

Some four or five years ago I mentioned that surprising results had been obtained by watering or spraying a foliage feed on daffodil bulbs. Since then I had many reports from readers saying that where they had done this the daffodils had increased and were splendidly generous with their flowers.

We, too, started to feed our daffodils, applying Phosphagen and Murphy's Foliar Feed, and later PBI's Filippi. We use a sprayer, and we start spraying about now, giving the foliage a feed about every 10 days until it withers in June—about four or five applications in all.

First, we only treated the daffodils, but three years ago we gave all the bulbs and corns on the premises—their foliar feeds—scillas, snowdrops, crocuses, winter aconites, *Anemone blanda*, also the hybrid *Darwinia* tulips that over the years have done their first performance in the front garden and then have been planted fairly close together in a cutting bed in part of the vegetable garden. All these bulbs have had the same four or five treatments and this year the build up of flowering sized bulbs has been spectacular.

If we have time we will lift and divide many of the clumps and plant them in the front garden, and only with the known bulbs 20 years ago because over the years I have planted thousands of small bulbs and so many of them have dwindled away.

I suggest that you devote half an hour every 10 days spraying the foliage of all your naturalized bulbs with a foliage feed until the foliage begins to turn brown. It is not an arduous or expensive job, and I am sure that after a year or two you will see remarkable results.

Sign of the times: the Electricity Council's booklet *Electricity in Your Garden*, the first of which appeared in 1945, and which cost 500,000 copies were given away free. It has been rewritten and reissued. But the new edition will cost you 50p from electricity showrooms or garden centres. It is a foreword by Percy Thew.

It covers all aspects of the use of electricity in the garden—in the greenhouse, with powered tools in the garden and the workshop, with garden pools, decorative lighting, swimming pools and saunas. (There is also a very useful and salutary chapter reminding us of the hazards involved with electricity if elementary safety precautions are not observed.)

A few weeks ago I was saying I wished I could report that the motorized garden equipment were coming down. Now at least I can report the launching of a new, very keenly priced mains voltage 12in rotary electric mower, the Super 12, which has a grass collection box and an unusually powerful 525 watt motor. Black and Decker claim it is the most powerful light electric mower on the market, rotary or cylinder. It weighs under 14lb and costs £32.95 including the grass box, 50 feet of cable, and VAT.

It has an adjustable pram handle and the height of cut is variable between 1in and 1½in by a simple adjustment of the front wheels. It is certainly a versatile machine and, while not self propelled, is very

light and easy to push. It is also light enough to lift and hang on a shed wall when not in use.

Not unexpectedly, considering the inevitable rising costs of half-hardy bedding plants that have to be raised in hardy annuals and some of the half-hardy varieties that may be sown in the open are increasingly in demand. True, they need a little more attention than bedding plants, such as petunias planted out of boxes. Seed has to be sown in well-prepared ground, in beds or borders; seedlings have to be thinned and weeded maybe twice, and some may need the support of twiggy sticks. But you can have a really colourful display very cheaply with these annuals sown where they are to flower.

Many are now available as pelleted seeds, and these really are a boon. You can sow them at the final recommended distance, thus eliminating the work of thinning and the disturbance it causes to the seedlings that are to remain.

Sadly many people, I fear, especially after last year's dry spring and summer, are rather disenchanted with pelleted seeds, or have been told by friends that they have had disappointing results. The trouble is that so often people do not read the instructions, or if they do, they fail to carry them out properly.

As most people know, a pelleted seed is simply a seed coated with an inert clay which makes the pellets many times larger than the seeds, and therefore simple to sow individually at the required spacing. But the clay coating must be moistened when sown in the soil, and kept moist until the seed has germinated and pushed through it. This obviously was the trouble—the coating was not moistened or kept moist long enough. So after sowing pelleted seeds, water the ground well and see that it does not dry out thereafter.

The choice of hardy annuals is obviously a personal matter, but I am very fond of the various calendulas, annual chrysanthemums, cornflowers, *Scabiosa* and cosmos, all good for cutting. Alyssum and *Lilac* may be cut over after flowering and give a second, or even a third crop, and *Laetara* "Loveliness", with its large rose pink star-shaped flowers, is a plant I am surprised is not grown more often.

Much work has been done with sweet peas in the past 10 years or so—mainly in the production of dwarf types—Bijou, about 12 inches, or Set, three feet, and Little Elf, two and a half feet. Mixtures for example, These all carry quite large flowers on stems long enough for cutting. You have only a small garden, or maybe merely some tubs or window boxes, you can still enjoy scented sweet peas by growing the dwarf mixture. As with all sweet peas, the more you pick them, the more they flower.

If annual flowers have a drawback it is that the dead flowers must be carefully removed, as much to keep the plants looking tidy as to ensure a long season of flowering. Once annuals have set seeds they tend to give up producing more flowers, but most of them, if they are dead-headed every week, will flower over a long period.

Roy Hay

## Collecting To Leach or not to Leach?

The reputation of Bernard Leach, "the great English potter", is almost parallel to that of Shakespeare "the great English writer". His nineteenth birthday is being celebrated by a retrospective at the Victoria and Albert Museum. A practicing potter for more than 60 years, and one of the most dedicated teachers, Leach, both through his ceramics and his writings, has had a crucial effect upon pottery since 1921, when he came to St Ives from a long stay in the Far East.

As to what the "Leach Tradition" is, it seems to be all things to all men. To characterize it, as one leading ceramic teacher did recently, as the "Anglo-Japanese Pottery Company", is understandable but not entirely fair. For whatever one may think of the work of his more committed followers—in general very little—the Victoria and Albert Museum show establishes Leach himself as one of a very small group of truly great ceramic artists.

However, there is something a little ironic about that greatness. Leach, a pupil of Brangwyn and Henry Tonks at the Slade, and thus the last living link with the arts and crafts movement (Brangwyn had been a partner of William Morris), has dedicated his work to the concept of functionalism. Pottery, for him, must serve a purpose—it may not exist in that transitory limbo called art. It is this aspect of his work which has caused the endless procession of brown-grey pots, bowls, beakers and jam-jars which, as an art critic remarked in *The Times* a year or two ago, inevitably remind one of county ladies in tweeds drinking tea.

Yet the best work displayed at the V & A is not about function but about art. These are sculptural objects springing from the mind and hands of a graphic artist of great talent. Place one hundred of the best of these pieces beside on hundred works by William Staite Murray and the impartial observer would be able to detect little difference in attitude.

And there lies the greatest irony. For Staite-Murray and Leach, both of whom came to prominence in the period between 1925 and 1935, have always been taken as the protagonists in the battle which has divided English pottery in the twentieth century—function versus non-function, craft versus art. Murray charged very high prices for his ceramics which were exhibited with the work of sculptors and painters in art galleries and considered them a significant contribution to sculpture. He admitted his debt to the work of Shoji Hamada but had little time for what he considered to be the self-righteous attitude of the Leach school. Between him and Leach there was some degree of personal animosity. Leach's ideas, however, gained accept-

ance during the 1930s, when his inexpensive tableware contrasted with Staite-Murray's expensive "art" pots. From then on, there was no contest, which may have been why a disillusioned Murray gave up potting in 1939.

Leach's teaching about pottery has been surprisingly narrow-minded and dogmatic, yet he is far too great a maker to be confined within his own close limits. Many of those whose attitude towards ceramics have been fashioned by Leach's written work, notably *A Potter's Book* (the nearest thing to Holy Writ for a generation of English ceramists) are not so gifted, however, and all that emerges from them is sterile pastiche, which they excuse by pointing to its unobtrusiveness as reason, drinking bowl or plate. And such an attitude remained unchallenged for many years. There is a danger, that a younger generation of potters will be unprepared to accept Leach's real greatness as a potter while throwing over the last vestiges of Leach the guru. For them, the V & A retrospective will come as a timely reminder.

Leach's ideas, deriving from a deep love and understanding of Oriental art, philosophy and religion, are strange and not wholly compatible with the abstract Buddhist, specifically Zen, concepts of submission and repetition—the value of doing for the doing's sake with a sturdy western practicality. It is this duality of thought which has caused the best elements in his ceramics—that synthesis of East and West which has been his prime goal. The V & A exhibition contains several pre-St Ives pieces, which show a brilliant talent shifting around, trying to find a direction. There is a small section of Leach's raku bowls of 1911, one of the first pieces he decorated, a whimsical model of the workshop and kiln at Abiko, which Leach, strongly of European background, had bought in 1910, which prefigures the extraordinary blue and white porcelain vase of 1912, looking like every other piece of decadent blue and white one has ever seen, and a collector's made in 1919, which prefigures the potter's major preoccupation for the past 60 years, the making of usable tableware.

Back in England, the early years saw the production, side by side, of ash-glazed pieces and stoneware. Some of the latter are not so much inspired by seventeenth-century English pottery decorated in this manner, as copies of it. The same is true of the Orient-inspired pieces. This, indeed, is one of the major barriers in a critical appreciation of Leach's work, one that has not been stripped away. One has the uneasy feeling that he allowed himself to become too absorbed with the aesthetics of the East, specifically the pre-1930, and the occasional dated piece, it is almost impossible to say when a pot was made if there is no documentary evidence.

In other words, the quality of Leach's work has consisted throughout his career as a potter, with some magnificent examples being produced in the early 1930s.

positive contribution to the raising of standards in the present century to one of the few English art forms which can claim with some justification to be preeminent in the western world. The ceramics of no other country in recent years have been so richly and diverse. Even the standard of abstract Expressionism? As a teacher, students of the Californian Peter Voulkos have admitted to being "uncomfortably aware of having to measure themselves against Leach's pivotal position." They might have used the same words as did the Spanish painter José Laurens Arizola in 1952: "To Leach or not to Leach, that is the question."

However, it is only in England that Leach's ceramic style has had a direct influence. The German and Scandinavian potters of the past 40 years have accepted his precepts and have revered him as one of the greatest twentieth-century ceramists. However, they have not understood that to benefit most from Leach, it is necessary to be very selective; there is between his writings and his actual ceramics a wealth of contradictions. Just to read his books can have disastrous consequences as is obvious from much English pottery as well.

The French have been the least impressed, although their four leading twentieth-century potters—Soubinhière, Lenoble, Decœur and Serré—went to the early Chinese wares for their inspiration. As for anything, their work suffers as much from being too self-consciously about art as the "Leach Tradition" does from being so self-conscious against it. Nevertheless, it is worth remembering that the "Leach Tradition" is called "The Art of Bernard Leach", a description with which it is impossible to argue, having seen the show.

For those interested in acquiring examples of Bernard Leach's work, there are hard times ahead. The view of the 25,000 or so pots it is estimated he has produced, it might be thought that there would be no shortage; but this is not the case. A surprisingly small number of his pots are for sale, and those that do disappear again with alarming speed. There have been fewer than 10 at Sotheby's and Christie's in the past five years, although a large group appeared in 1965. The contents of the Maufe estate were sold at auction in the country last month.

Prices depend upon the importance of individual pots, with a general range of about £50 to £500 for undamaged examples. Very special pieces would probably exceed the top figure, although what constitutes very special is a matter of taste. One prospective purchaser, there does not appear to be any premium attached to date, although with the exception of the St Ives piece with the cracked pre-1930, mark and the occasional dated piece, it is almost impossible to say when a pot was made if there is no documentary evidence.

In other words, the quality of Leach's work has consisted throughout his career as a potter, with some magnificent examples being produced in the early 1930s.

Ian Bennett

The author is an art market consultant and writer.

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## Chess

## The charmed circle

April 12 the English team be setting out for Moscow, to undergo its severest since the last European Championship Finals at in 1973. This champion-ship brain-child of my good friend Dr. Wilfried Doradzki, of na, is always a fearsome event with teams that y do contain the quinte-essence of European chess. The titleholders are, and ys have been, the USSR the seven countries that qualified to join them in the final are as follows:— and from Group 1: Hungary Romania from Group 2; slavia and Bulgaria from p 3; Czechoslovakia from p 4; and West Germany Group 5.

at England qualified from p 1 ahead of the power-ful Dutch team we owe almost-ly to the brave resistance up by the Welsh to them the preliminary group-mentally when referring to renaissance of Welsh chess week, I find I forgot to tion one possible cause, it was the impetus given to game in Wales by Mr. es, the Mayor-elect of rystwyth. Would all mayors us energetic as he is in ining the cause of chess, ist time England occupied respectable position of sixth of eight. How will the team this time? The first point nuke is that Moscow will ally be a stronger event Bath was. This time we Czechoslovakia and aria in place of Poland and zerland, who rather surpris-ly and luckily qualified for 1.

think the English team is bly stronger than it was Bath. It is, in board order,

Keene, Hartston, Stean, Nunn, Mestel, Whiteley, Webb, Bellin, with Spectman and Rumens as the two reserves. Of these, Keene, Hartston and Stean, who played at Bath as well, have increased in strength and in addition there are two talented newcomers in Nunn and Mestel.

Alas, it could have been even stronger but Tony Miles, who was originally on the list as first board, has instead chosen to accept an invitation to play in a tournament in Brazil. This is a thousand pities. His absence from the Moscow event will be highly regrettable not only from the aspect of the English team's results there but also in relation to the further progress of Tony Miles himself.

To those who believe that now he has gained the official title of grandmaster much further progress is impossible and impossible for Tony Miles, I would say that his acquisition of the title is neither here nor there. It is a title held in common by such great players as Botvinnik, Fischer and Karpov and the paper tigers who constitute about half of the total of official grandmasters and are known collectively as colleagues of Damjanovic.

In order to break through to the charmed circle of those deemed to be rivals of the world champion, our grandmaster will have to play against the best in the world. At Moscow he could have met no less than five of these—Karpov, Portisch, Ljubojevic (or Gligoric), Hort and Hubert. Good results against this admittedly formidable quarter are not beyond his powers and would certainly have enhanced his reputation. It is not too late for Tony Miles to change his mind and it would gratify his many admirers in British chess if he were to abandon his

Brazilian trip in favour of the harder but more rewarding Moscow event.

He was absent from the English team at the Clare Benedict Team Tournament in Copenhagen last month and whilst the English side did pretty well in coming second to Denmark in this strong West European event his presence might have given us chances for first place. The final scores were:—Denmark 18½, England 17, Sweden 14½, Spain 14, Austria 12, West Germany and Norway 12½ and Switzerland 10.

The Danish grandmaster, Bent Larsen, was a tower of strength on top board where he scored four wins and three draws and played in every round. But Hartston and Stean both gained prizes for the highest scores on boards 2 and 3 and Keene held his own on top board and drew his game with Larsen. Rumens too did well on bottom board with a 70 per cent score, but Webb was quite out of form and scored only 25 per cent. One hopes this is purely temporary and that he will show his true capabilities at Moscow.

The calm efficiency and positional savoir faire with which Keene beats the West German top board in the following game from the Clare Benedict augur well for his performance on that board at Moscow.

White: R. Lehmman. Black: R. D. Keene. QP Queen's Indian Defence.

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## Geoffrey Keynes, the dreamer who was undeniably a man of action as well

© Sir Geoffrey Keynes, pictured right, the distinguished surgeon and literary editor was 90 yesterday. His lifelong friend, author, David Garnett, recalls their first meeting.

I was staying at Grantchester with Rupert Brooke, to whom I had been introduced by Noel Olivier, and was woken early in the summer morning by a shout. It was Geoffrey Keynes, and my first sight of him was halfway up the stairs, urging Rupert to hurry and come out and bathe in Byron's pool. He had run out from Cambridge and as soon as we had had our swim, he ran off again refusing to stay for breakfast. Even then, every hour was allotted and his day was full.

He was tall and beneath his youth and gaiety there was a high-metalled impatience for action. That was in 1910.

Just over four years later he was in uniform and I went to see him at Adrian Stephens' house in Brunswick Square. As I had spent those years as a science student and knew something of bacteriology, I thought that I might make a good lab attendant in an army medical unit, and it shows how little Geoffrey then knew of army organization, that he did not immediately think it impossible that I should go out with him in some humble capacity.

It was still with that hope that I went, a day or two later, to the Stephen house, where I found Maynard Keynes lying absolutely relaxed in an armchair. It was the first time I had met and talked to him. Geoffrey had gone and was in France, and Maynard assured me that the war would be over by the following spring.

During the five years which followed I saw much of Maynard, living as I did in the familiar circle of his friends, and but little of Geoffrey. Of course we met casually now and then in my bookshop, but we did not see much of each other until I, almost accidentally, became a junior partner in the Nonesuch Press on its foundation.

### Magnificent volumes

There was a need for a complete edition of Blake's writings. The *Rhims and Years* edition was expensive, rare and unsatisfactory. So my first suggestion to Francis and Vera Meynell was to urge them to commission Geoffrey to edit a complete Blake. This turned out to be a magnificent work in three large volumes with all the variant readings. It was followed by many other works—bibliographies and other important editions. As a result Geoffrey became a constant visitor to the Nonesuch Press and a close friend.

But by then I had become an author and Geoffrey a famous surgeon. He had all the qualities needed: accurate judgement, rapid decision, perfect technique and physical health and strength. His days were filled with action; and, in the evenings, he turned untrusting to scholarship and books.

Before 1929 Geoffrey had talked to me about the treatment of cancer, and when my wife developed the first symptoms of cancer of the breast, Geoffrey examined her and with extraordinary generosity—which did not seem extra-



ordinary since it was so much part of his character—understood his treatment. The symptoms recurred and his care of her lasted 11 years until her death.

This brought us very close. Geoffrey did not speak words of sympathy; I did not express gratitude, but in some circumstances words are not needed, or possible.

In those years between the wars, Geoffrey got into the habit of inviting me to come for an evening and stay for the night at his house in Argyll Road, at a time when I had no flat in London and we could sit and talk about books until midnight.

What I regret in our friendship is that I saw him so seldom out of doors. I wish I could have gone walking, swimming, camping with him for he was the perfect companion for the country.

Actually I spent more time in the open air, walking on the South Downs, with Maynard than with Geoffrey.

There was an immense contrast between the two brothers. But they had a trait in common which made them the most wonderful of friends. That is that any person whom they accepted was sure of his position. This acceptance (loyalty) was the word, yet it defeated me to find the right one) was responsible for another precious quality. That is that on meeting again, even after a long interval, no time was wasted in trying to bridge a gap of months or years. The relationship went straight on from where it had left off.

I was talking the other day of Geoffrey and of Maynard, of the brilliance of their gifts and the diversity of their characters, to a famous surgeon of the present day and he threw out a curious paradox. He said that the art of keeping people alive had now reached such a point that rapid diagnosis and speedy action were not needed in the surgeon. In most cases he had plenty of time. But the qualities of instant decision and action were now essential for the financier and economist.

"So perhaps if they were to start again Lord Keynes would be the great surgeon and Sir Geoffrey the brilliant financier."

This seemed to me ridiculous but nevertheless interesting. I don't think that I ever met Geoffrey when he was not planning some project or helping and persuading someone else to carry out some cherished dream which he felt ought to be realized.

Blake must have had a prophetic vision of Geoffrey when he wrote: "Energy is eternal delight."

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George Hutchinson

## How close has Mr Steel come to dishing the Liberals?

The consequences of the deal could easily impair the Liberals' identity as a distinctive political force.

I do not suppose, however, that he would have taken defeat too tragically if he had lost the vote on Wednesday night and then the ensuing election. With every justification he could have blamed Sir Harold Wilson more than himself. It is Sir Harold's record that dogs the Labour Party rather than Mr Callaghan's.

Believing as she does that an election cannot be long delayed, Mrs Thatcher may also feel, on reflection, that the week's developments are likely to serve and assist her own interests. Support for the Liberals, which appeared to be increasing,

may now be checked, while the unrest of the Labour left must be expected to grow if Mr Steel and his little band should actually succeed in moderating Government policy—and even the attempt will inflame the Marxist.

But there are other considerations, too. For one thing, there was the possible boomerang effect of precipitating an election so very suddenly by resort to a motion of no confidence, a tactic rarely employed. For another, the Conservative Party organization is not yet fully prepared, although gathering strength week by week.

For many months it has been Mrs Thatcher's instinct—her conviction—that an election will occur this year, not from the Prime Minister's choice but under the pressure of events. Accordingly, she and Lord Thorneycroft, the party chairman, have been working towards a state of readiness. In several spheres their organizational arrangements are well advanced—but there are still a number of deficiencies, not least the information services.

Above all, perhaps, their policies are in need of fuller exposition, of greater definition and precision. On this reasoning, Mrs Thatcher may think herself fortunate to have escaped the test for the moment. When it does come, she should be better equipped for victory.

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## The man who helped to make table tennis more than just a game of ping-pong

Sportswriter

Echoes from the past, when balls carved from champagne corks were hit by leashed Victorians across their polished tables, will reverberate around the world today. But the precise truth about the origins of modern table tennis seems unlikely to emerge.

Nobody can dispute the evidence provided by the world championships starting in Birmingham this weekend as to what has happened since those early days. With millions of participants on every continent, table tennis is in the front rank of the many global sports passed to other nations by the English.

The first world championships drew about 80 players from nine countries to the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, in December 1926. The tournament, the £300 cost of which was met from an English official's fortuitous legacy, had been mooted at a meeting in Berlin earlier in the year as a European championship. Entries from Indian students at a London hotel later justified the more grandiose title of world championships.

The International Table Tennis Federation was formed in Kensington a week after the inaugural tournament, and today it has 124 member associations. About 70 of them have players at Birmingham, and most of the other countries are sending delegates or officials, bringing the total to a record 1,000 or so actively involved. About 550,000 will be needed to cover costs, and Norwich Union is in the forefront of the various sponsors.

Table tennis received its first known mention in a sporting goods catalogue in 1884, but it was the arrival of celluloid balls a few years later from America which gave the sport its first major impetus. By 1900 there was a real craze for the game in society, though interest soon lapsed in England until the early 1920s. In central Europe, however, its popularity never sagged.

The celluloid balls, which replaced the cork or rubber ones used hitherto, were on sale in America's children's toy shops when their potential for table tennis was spotted by an English visitor, a Mr James Gibb. He brought some back home with him and is credited with first use of the words "ping-pong" in the game's language. This was based on the sound the balls made on the hollow vulcanite rackets then in use. It was quickly registered as a trade name by an enterprising sports goods manufacturer.

English officials, whose own association has its jubilee this season, were entrusted with drawing up the game's laws from the start of the international federation. These have barely changed during 50 years, apart from a lowering of the net by 3 in to 6 in; the banning of finger spin while

serving, which was an American practice; and the introduction of time limits to matches. This followed some farcical stonewalling in the 1930s when some individual points were contested for several hours. Nowadays it is the sheer speed of the sport, calling for superb reflexes of mind and eye, which makes the biggest impression on the casual spectator. In a one-minute rally 15 hits and upwards have been recorded and the speed of a smashed hit has been timed at more than 100mph.

Without question the greatest contribution by any one Englishman to the game's development throughout the world has come from Mr Iv Montagu. He was the first national federation's chairman and remained in office for 41 years.

It was Mr Montagu's leg from his grandfather who paid for the 1926 event. He also paid a newsworthy care in film, producing, for his peace, but his lifetime's dedication to his chosen game, hardly be matched by another official in sport.

Mr Montagu was responsible for the federation becoming the first governing body sport to give their players open status. In the 1920s you were a professional in a sport, you often could not play as an amateur in another. It was a curious way and followed some high spirited late night games in the streets of Regent Charles Bull, the Kent and Worcestershire cricketers, who also an England table tennis player. With all the advantages of a deep fieldman's swing throw and accurate aim, he proved a devastating and high spirited late night game. He was a professional in a sport, you often could not play as an amateur in another. It was a curious way and followed some high spirited late night games in the streets of Regent Charles Bull, the Kent and Worcestershire cricketers, who also an England table tennis player. With all the advantages of a deep fieldman's swing throw and accurate aim, he proved a devastating and high spirited late night game. 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## MR DESAI AND MR RAM

It was hardly likely that in the course of the Indian election campaign much emphasis would have been laid on the great difficulties the Janata coalition would face if it should defeat Mrs Gandhi's Congress. Yet those difficulties in the choice of a leader and in the cohesiveness of the coalition were plain to see. So it is now proving. Mr Desai's acquisition of the leadership has exposed the rivalry in that quarter, as Mr Jagjivan Ram and his Congress for Democracy at first withdrew sulking, refusing to come closer to the existing coalition. The problems within the coalition may also be sensed in the delay over announcing Cabinet appointments.

Mr Jagjivan Ram's role in all this may be laid bare without undue crudity. His ambition to take over the leadership of Congress from Mrs Gandhi led him to forsake her once the election had been announced and he sensed that the wind would not be in her quarter. His Congress for Democracy could therefore swim with the opposition tide and his political influence in northern India could be used in its aid to bring about Mrs Gandhi's defeat while leaving him free, if the outcome favoured it, to return to the Congress ranks when it was ready to evict Mrs Gandhi from the leadership. Alternatively, an opposition victory would give him the chance of leading it by having become its strong man and saviour.

In the event he has lost on both expectations. Mrs Gandhi's defeat was so great that the

surviving Congress is no longer worth leading—not as it miserably stands, holding its position only in the southern states where Mr Ram has no real foothold. Yet the victory of the Janata Party was one to which Mr Jagjivan Ram's personal contribution in terms of seats won was not so great as to give him sufficient leverage to contest the choice of Mr Morarji Desai—who is older, whose ministerial record is more impressive, and whose determined ambition is quite as strong as Mr Ram's. He has now had to accept a Cabinet post as the best he can get in the situation in which he finds himself.

Has Mr Morarji Desai the capacity to make a coherent party out of the four groups composing the Janata coalition? He has outlined a programme that might serve well enough for parties that are anchored slightly more to the right than to the left—save for the relatively weak Socialists. But just as the Liberal Democratic Party in Japan has been understood only by analysing its factions, so Indian politics at this stage, thirty years after independence, must be read in terms of factions that once formed part of the united Congress that set out to rule independent India.

That Congress is now divided into four parts. One is the defeated party in which Mrs Gandhi's leadership has now been inherited by Mr Chavan, lately India's Foreign Minister. Then there is the Congress for Democracy of Mr Jagjivan Ram

that may now have lost its moorings but will certainly remain politically active. Then there are the two factions within the Janata Party: Mr Morarji Desai's wing of Congress which regarded Mrs Gandhi as a temporary leader when she was put in in 1966 and which broke away over the policy issue of bank nationalization in 1969, when she was sticking fast and looked as though she would be hard to evict. The other Congress body is led by Mr Charan Singh, once chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, who fell out with Mrs Gandhi and founded his own Indian People's Party (B.L.D.). Mr Charan Singh's role in the opposition victory has certainly been considerable and he will have an important post in Mr Desai's team.

Apart from the two Communist parties—one a discontented ex-partner of Mrs Gandhi's Congress; the other an ally of the opposition though not part of the coalition, the only other party that matters in India, and may in the near future matter a good deal, is the Jana Sangh. In terms of organization and membership it is the next in India to Congress in size but its following is much more in the north than in the south. Its Hindu leanings may find in Mr Desai an acceptable leader. But even if his vigour is undiminished at eighty-one his inflexibility will certainly make his management of the coalition a much more difficult task than those he has taken on in his long career in politics.

## MR CARTER AND THE PALESTINIANS

The past three weeks have seen a number of significant developments affecting the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Israeli Prime Minister has visited Washington. The Palestine National Council has met in Cairo and revised its political programme. The American and Soviet leaders have both spent out their ideas on the solution of the conflict in greater detail than before, apparently moving a little closer together in the process. And last night a new Middle East debate began in the United Nations Security Council.

Mr Rabin's visit to Washington did not in itself alter the known outlines of the problem, but it did serve as the stimulus, or at least the starting-point, for a series of statements by Mr Carter. First he delighted the Israelis by endorsing their need for "defensible borders". Then he explained that he thought Israel could, for the foreseeable future, keep defence lines beyond whatever were agreed to be the permanent and recognized legal borders. The Arabs took offence at this, but the Israelis too were upset by Mr Carter's "guess" that the borders to which Israel would have to withdraw in return for full peace would involve only "minor adjustments in the 1967 borders".

The Israelis got a further shock last week when Mr Carter informed the unsuspecting inhabitants of Clinton, Massachusetts, that "there has to be a homeland provided for the Palestinian refugees who have suffered so many, many years", and then went on to shake hands (clearly on purpose) with the PLO

observer at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The word he used was carefully chosen: it does not commit him to support an independent Palestinian state, any more than in 1917 Balfour's promise of a "national home in Palestine" for the Jews committed Britain to create a Jewish state. But it is a word charged with emotional significance for Palestinians now as it was for Jews then.

It confirms, too, what Mr Carter's statements about other areas of the world had already suggested—that his concern for human rights is genuine and universal in its application. Just as his anxiety for a Salt agreement does not weaken his concern about the fate of Soviet Jews and other dissidents, so his unquestionably firm support for Israel's existence will not weaken his concern at the suffering of Palestinian refugees—or, one may surmise, of the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation, whose situation was the object of a unanimous expression of concern by the Security Council last November and has certainly not improved since.

Mr Carter wants to help the Palestinians, and his statement was publicly welcomed by Mr Yasser Arafat. But he may well feel that the Palestinians—or at least the 292 of them who assembled in Cairo and unanimously re-elected Mr Arafat as their leader—are not helping him. The Palestine National Council has reaffirmed the PLO's rejection of Resolution 242 and any negotiations based on it, as well as all types of American capitulationist projects. It has urged the PLO to "escalate the

armed struggle in the occupied territory", and has decided "to adhere to the support for the Palestine Revolution in order to regain the constant national rights of the Palestinian Arab people without any conciliation or recognition" (sic of Israel).

One can of course explain that such decisions were the necessary price of Mr Arafat's victory in breaking up the former "rejection front" (now apparently reduced to Mr George Habash's group and denied, for the time at least, even Iraqi support). One can point to the clauses emphasizing the need for "an independent national state on their national soil" (ie, not, in the first instance, a "democratic" state in the whole of Palestine) and asserting "the PLO's rights to participate independently and on an equal footing in all the conferences and international forums concerned with the Palestine issue and the Arab-Zionist conflict"—thus apparently leaving Mr Arafat free to accept an invitation to the Geneva Conference provided it does not actually have "Resolution 242" stamped all over it. But these scarcely provide Mr Carter with arguments to persuade the Israelis to allow such an invitation to be issued, any more than Mr Brezhnev's generous admission that "the drawing up of peace terms in every detail is primarily a matter for the conflicting sides themselves" will persuade them to accept his offer to place Soviet observers in the demilitarized zones. There are still many obstacles to be removed before a settlement will be in sight.

## A FAIRER SHARE OF THE TRAFFIC

With only three months to go before the Bermuda agreement on air traffic between the United Kingdom and the United States expires, we are still a long way from a new agreement. The talks next week in Washington between the two countries should provide an opportunity to sort out those issues where the differences are matters of degree, on which a compromise should be possible, and those where more fundamental issues of principle are at stake.

Some of the principles are clear. It is pointless even to try to negotiate a new agreement if the other partner is not willing or able to implement the present one on matters which are inconvenient. The failure to allow Concord to use New York airport owes more to internal Democratic politics in that state than it does to policy of the United States Government; but it is clear that under the terms of the present agreement Concord does have a right to land in New York. The failure of the Washington Administration to

ensure that that right is respected ought to be rectified at once.

These doubts are reinforced by the evident unwillingness of the United States to give up some of the more obviously unfair advantages which it has enjoyed since the original Bermuda settlement was reached in 1947. The most notable of these is the so-called "fifth freedom", which in practice allows American airlines to fly from British territory to destinations other than the United States. For example, Pan American flies to nine European cities from London, with the possibility of taking some of the short-distance traffic. It is clearly an unequal arrangement which allows the United States' airlines to do this when British Airways cannot compete for internal traffic in the United States. This point has more than theoretical importance. On the North Atlantic route alone, the imbalance in revenues is not, probably, an insuperable problem. It is in their flights from

London to destinations on the Continent and westwards from Hongkong that the American airlines have an unfair advantage.

On the other issues, the scope for negotiation is clearer. There seems already to have been some movement towards an understanding on the share-out of routes on the North Atlantic itself, and although it is unrealistic to suppose that the United States would accept the principle of one American airline on the New York-London route, they have in practice cut back their flights from many other cities. On the other main demand of the United Kingdom, that there should be action to limit surplus capacity, the real interests of both countries do not differ greatly. The United States has no more wish than we have to see aircraft flying nearly empty, but the United Kingdom ought not to be so committed to the interests of its national airline that it forgets that passengers pay heavily on scheduled flights and should expect to get a seat when they need one.

## BBC reporting in Ulster

From Mr Michael McNair-Wilson, MP for Newbury, Berkshire (Conservative)

Sir, Sir Michael Swann's and Mr Keith Kyle's letters on the BBC's reporting of events in Northern Ireland will arouse more concern than any they may ally.

Sir Michael (March 22), in his defence of the Kyle interview on the Tonight programme, asks what practical alternative was open to the BBC except to put out the interview since it raised a matter of public concern. May I make a suggestion?

Before broadcasting it, why didn't the BBC inform the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Secretary of State for

Northern Ireland about the allegations made by Mr O'Connor? They could still have reserved the right to put out the programme covering the complaint if they felt the allegations had not been properly considered. At least it would have meant that the RUC's point of view was heard.

Would that have conflicted with the BBC's declared duty "to reflect the conflict in all its manifestations"? And would it not have shown some responsibility towards the men and women of the Royal Ulster Constabulary who have recently suffered their hundredth fatal casualty? Day after day they seek to bring law and order to every part of Northern Ireland. That depends on the trust and confidence which all the community has in their impartiality.

Mr Kyle's interview can hardly have helped in that task. Yet in his letter of March 23 he sees fit to justify his interview by further unsubstantiated suggestions that the RUC may have flouted the Attorney General's undertakings that certain deep interrogation techniques used in 1971 would not be reintroduced.

Certainly the BBC has the duty to inform. But in so violent a situation as Northern Ireland does it not have an overriding responsibility to support those entrusted with law and order until it is in possession of all the facts relating to an allegation of brutality?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MCNAIR-WILSON,  
House of Commons.  
March 23.

## Liberal Party support for the Labour Government

From Professor F. E. G. Cox

Sir, The decision of the Liberal MPs to join with the Labour Party has effectively disenfranchised many of the professional middle class. We voted Liberal in large numbers because we did not want to vote for either the Labour Party with its policies, which many of us consider to be divisive and destructive, or for the Conservatives, whose apparent disregard for underprivileged individuals and human rights and dignity, our votes were not wasted. We became part of a self-respecting minority which was totally under-represented in Parliament but whose elected representatives stood as symbols of much of what we believed in.

Had the Liberals abstained or voted according to their consciences they would have reflected a feeling held by many that neither of the major parties deserves the confidence of the people and hence support. What party can we vote for now? Is there any future for the thinking professional middle class? Yes, probably there is—but not in Britain.

Yours faithfully,  
F. E. G. COX,  
University of London King's College, Strand, WC2.

From Dr A. J. Black  
Sir, I voted Liberal instead of Labour in the past two elections, and I would like to register wholehearted support for the recent agreement between these parties. In my view, allowing economic policies which are beginning to bear fruit, time to work out shows a greater concern for the national interest than does appealing to popular sovereignty in an attempt to gain power in a manner that is in no way prescribed by our constitutional norms.

Yours faithfully,  
A. J. BLACK,  
Department of Political Science,  
The University,  
Dundee.  
March 24.

From Mrs Anna Keighley  
Sir, In the past I have cast my vote for the Liberal Party. I do not want either a Tory or a Socialist government. Though ineffective, it was the only positive statement I could make regarding my political beliefs.

I now feel I have been dismayed by the men I felt shared my views. It is as though they have cast my vote and handed it, gift wrapped, to a smiling tiger, and what is more, I was not consulted.

Yours faithfully,  
ANNA KEIGHLEY,  
Apple Yard, High Road,  
Old Eastcote,  
Finch, Middlesex.  
March 23.

From Mr Peter Herlierson Lewis  
Sir, The arrangements come to which the Liberals will, I think, please all but extreme opinion, be it right, left or centrist.

As proof of the Liberals' genuine desire for a period of effective classes being taken by the less experienced teachers. The questions which need to be asked are why such classes are left to the weaker staff and whether the impression left by the film was a fair one.

In our experience as former teachers in comprehensive schools it is normal practice for some heads of department to adopt just this attitude, reserving the better and more disciplined classes for the senior staff whilst leaving the new entrants to the profession to manage as best they can with the more difficult classes.

Unless and until this attitude is reversed the general standard of discipline of the more difficult classes will never be raised, and the scene shown in the film will continue to be typical of many schools.

In our opinion the film was a very fair reflection of life in some comprehensive schools, particularly in the contrast shown between the sympathetic attitude of the more experienced staff in their pastoral activities and the appalling lack of understanding shown by their less able colleagues.

Yours etc,  
PATRICIA M. DOUGHTY,  
KENNETH F. W. DOUGHTY,  
Vessers House,  
Lockley,  
Romsey,  
Hampshire.  
March 25.

From Mrs John Badmoch  
Sir, I was not at a boys' school or at a mixed school, but I wonder how many girls there are, from any type of girls' school, who cannot remember at least one occasion of chaos in class.

Yours faithfully,  
ANNE BADMOCH,  
123 Woodstock Road,  
Oxford.  
March 23.

From Mr D. E. Christopherson  
Sir, I was interested to read the letter on seal culling by J. K. Hillier in today's *The Times*, in which he defended it by saying that for the past 200 years it has been part of the Newfoundland culture, and "the necessary rite de passage for all young men". How terribly sad that this should be so. Surely the sooner it dies from their culture the better, and the dignity of these young men no longer be utterly degraded in the view of so many people.

It was heartening to see recently on a television documentary about the splendid islanders of Ulster, who for many years traditionally hunted the seals, now no longer do so.

The stature of the young men of Newfoundland would rise in the eyes of many people if they would give up this utterly barbaric custom.

Yours faithfully,  
D. E. CHRISTOPHERSON,  
Rede Cottage,  
Dormans Park,  
East, Grinstead,  
Sussex.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Liberal Party support for the Labour Government

government under Mr Callaghan, I feel the first step Mr Steel and his colleagues should now take is to arrange for the Liberal candidate in the Starchford by-election to withdraw. While I believe Labour will draw, while I believe Labour will now win next week, this would be a widely valued gesture of goodwill.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER HENDERSON LEWIS,  
17b Whitehall Road,  
Rugby,  
Warwickshire.  
March 23.

From Mr Antony J. Mee  
Sir, Let no Liberal ever say again that a vote for Liberals is not a vote for Labour.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTONY J. MEE,  
Woodcroft House,  
Fordingbridge,  
Hampshire.  
March 24.

From Mr Edgar Fromm  
Sir, Many years ago, when I served on the committee of a local Liberal Association and consequently acted as an observer during two election counts, a very prominent Liberal politician, now deceased, remarked to me afterwards that if ever I were to witness in my later life a situation when Liberals should align themselves to the Labour Party I am to take it for granted that I shall then see the beginning of the demise of the Liberal Party.

Little could I have suspected, almost three decades ago, that in 1977 Liberals would bring about such a situation when they would abandon Liberal principles as a pretence for the preservation of national interests which only serve the interests of the Labour Party in reality.

The saying of the fifties and sixties that Liberal members of Parliament can fit into one taxi to reach the House of Commons will now regrettably have to be rephrased to a bicycle made for TWO when the time comes when former supporters of Liberalism deliver their verdict at the next General Election.

Yours sincerely,  
EDGAR FROMM,  
63 Brookland Rise,  
Hamstead Garden Suburb, NW11.  
March 24.

From Mr D. G. McGill  
Sir, In a true democracy the only body competent to decide the composition of the government is the electorate. It has been denied the choice.

Yours faithfully,  
D. G. MCGILL,  
15 Barclay Close,  
Croydon.  
March 24.

From Mrs E. T. S. Byass  
Sir, Now we know exactly whom we have to blame for our continuing plight.

The further curtailment of personal freedom. The awful mountain of debts with which my innocent newly-born twin grandchildren will be saddled at their lives. The mounting of our own and hatred.

The wasting of money on totally

classes being taken by the less experienced teachers. The questions which need to be asked are why such classes are left to the weaker staff and whether the impression left by the film was a fair one.

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Yours faithfully,  
D. E. CHRISTOPHERSON,  
Rede Cottage,  
Dormans Park,  
East, Grinstead,  
Sussex.

hopeless enterprises such as worker cooperatives and British Leyland. The lowering further still of standards of education and medicine. The closed shop with all its mindless cruelty. Arguable and more are now laid at the door of the time servers, the traitors, the backstabbers, the squallid under-the-counter dealers—though they did not get much after all that—in fact the Liberals! Yours in horror and dismay,  
MARGARET BYASS,  
Billingham Lodge,  
54 Cossington Road,  
Slough,  
Buckinghamshire.  
March 23.

From Mr J. E. Humphrey  
Sir, Raised on the milk (gold top) of Gladstonian Liberalism, I am naturally dismayed that our latter-day Liberals should have thrown in their lot with a governing party which, arguably, has the worst record in living memory in matters of parliamentary fair dealing, the basic dignity of the individual and the rule of law.

But perhaps the Liberal MPs could yet manage not to conspire with their new bed-fellows in that falsehood about Mrs Thatcher (being disseminated systematically, with blatant electioneering intent and before that lady has endorsed a manifesto, let alone been in office) that she is some sort of right-wing extremist. For the truth of it, as any fair-minded person must concede, is that Mrs Thatcher would operate within a set-up which, socially, is, and will remain, a welfare state of a very comprehensive sort, and economically is, and will remain, a mixed economy with a hefty public sector—in short a political framework which, historically, is in the centre, if not rather leftish, for a parliamentary democracy, and which, if adopted by President Carter, would be regarded as radical to the point of revolution.

And, please, may we have no more of Mr Steel's mischievous nonsense—mischievous because the Liberal leader must surely know the truth of it—in suggesting that it was the prospect of Mrs Thatcher's policies that made the stock market tremble (his speech on the "no confidence" motion).

The market's tremors derived from fear of trade union, not Thatcher, policy—fear that the unions may not accept the verdict of the electorate if it happens to displease them. That fear, if it took substantial and inhibiting grip, would spell the end of our democracy: but the responsibility would not be Mrs Thatcher's.

Yours faithfully,  
J. E. HUMPHREY,  
9 Offington Gardens,  
Wokingham,  
Sussex.  
March 24.

From Mr Andrew R. E. Murray  
Sir, Now that the controversy over the vote of confidence in her Majesty's Government is over, would this not be the appropriate time to reconsider the televising of parliamentary debates, even for a short experimental time? Surely, the in-

decision by members of the public about whether or not the Government should remain in power would be greatly alleviated when they had been able to make a reasoned decision for themselves with the aid of comprehensive television coverage. This is the only way that the country can appreciate the complexity of the present system in Parliament and it may have the added benefit of restoring much of the respectability of the House of Commons by showing what is really a muddled in the interparty debates.

It is now the time to reawake the argument about the broadcasting of parliamentary procedure while the members and the public can appreciate the advantages this would provide.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW R. E. MURRAY,  
Chairman, Harrow East Young Conservatives,  
26 Pangbourne Drive,  
Stammore,  
Middlesex.

From Mr George McWatters  
Sir, Now that the threat of a immediate general election has been temporarily removed, many on sides of industry would like to see some form of bipartisan approach to industrial problems. The Industrial Act, the National Enterprise Board and Temporary Employment Schemes, amongst many other devices are all playing their part in the resuscitation of British industry. would be a tragedy if a change of government brought any of these to an abrupt end.

For instance, the footwear manufacturing industry is likely to be a casualty of the near future. It is estimated that the industry has lost £10,000,000 for substantial restructuring that is badly needed to revitalize this industry. Over ten years' work and study on how to allocate resources to overcome footwear manufacturing's problems have taken place. It would be a tragedy if a change of government should terminate all this.

Though personally I am a staunch supporter of the Conservative cause, I feel there is a greater need within our party for the understanding of industry's problem. Too often one hears speakers refer to the industry as "the inefficient industries and larders" without, in my view, a full understanding of, firstly, how and why they may have become larders and are not competitive, and secondly, and more important, how a diligent and consistent approach to policy, they can be made to succeed.

Yours sincerely,  
GEORGE MCWATTERS,  
17 Chester Terrace,  
Regent's Park, NW1.  
March 24.

From Mr W. J. Dymott  
Sir, Who would have thought that a vote for Labour would turn out to be a vote for the Liberal Party. Yours faithfully,  
W. J. DYMOOTT,  
161 Thames Side,  
Laleham-on-Thames,  
Middlesex.  
March 24.

he (the rabies victim) has been mixing?"

He replied "Their position is or of total safety. This is not a virus which spreads in the way in which other viruses, like the 'flu virus' or the smallpox virus, does. This is no risk to them at all... The rabies virus is not a community risk whatsoever. None at all to a human or any animal in the country."

So who's trying to fool who? ask this question not in order to score a point, but because it is important that the "rabiphobia" now infecting this country should not be allowed to provoke unnecessary measures which disrupt people's lives more drastically than the disease itself.

DONALD GOULD,  
15 Waterbeach Road,  
Landbeach,  
Cambridgeshire.  
March 16.

### Rabies risk

From Dr Donald Gould  
Sir, In your issue of Wednesday (March 16) you reported two additional and seemingly needless causes for distress among the parents of Ayub Khan, the Pakistani boy, who died of rabies in Bradford last Sunday.

They have been refused permission to fly the body to Pakistan because of the risk of infection, and, for the same reason, they were forbidden to hold a funeral at a local mosque. Your item stated that "Only close relatives who have been vaccinated" were to be allowed to attend a short service arranged in lieu of the wished-for mosque ceremony.

Speaking on the "World At One" last Monday, Dr Mike Priestman, the local Community Health Officer, was asked "What is the position of the people with whom

### Trade with Japan

From Mr Roderick MacFarquhar, MP for Belper (Labour)  
Sir, I agree with much of the argument in the letter from Mr R. P. Bower (March 19) about trade with Japan, particularly with his point that there must be a balance of trade. It is to say competitive western commodities must have the same chance of entering the Japanese domestic market as Japanese goods have in entering ours.

The most salient fact about Japan as a trading nation is that only about 20 per cent of her imports are manufactured goods, whereas the figure is roughly 50 per cent in the case of the other industrialized democracies. This discrepancy can only marginally be attributed to Japan's virtual total dependence on imported raw materials.

But may I also raise one further legitimate western grievance? Japan is alone among the major industrial democracies in having no significant defence burden; she is thus able to devote virtually all her considerable talents and resources to civilian industrial output. Few would want to press Japan

to alter her current defence policy but it is surely legitimate to ask her to consider assuming an equivalent burden in lieu.

Concretely, I would suggest that Japan should consider increasing her present very small aid burden of approximately 0.2 per cent of GNP. This, a rise of 50 per cent on the figure should easily be obtainable and I do not think unrealistic to ask the Japanese (I think eventually in the terms of figure of 2 per cent plus of GNP).

Hopefully, the bulk of an increase would be directed towards Asia where the need is the greatest and Japan's previous record somewhat weak. Hopefully too, there would be no attempt to link any such increase of aid to purchases of Japanese goods since that could serve only to exacerbate the present trade difficulties between Japan and the west.

What does seem likely is if such a policy were implemented it would help south Asia, it would improve Japanese-EEC relations, and it would increase Japanese prestige. Yours faithfully,  
RODERICK MACFARQUHAR,  
House of Commons.  
March 21.

### Rowing at Oxford

From Mr Robert Mason  
Sir, In reply to A. R. C. Westlake's letter on March 24, I would like to clarify some points about Oxford University and its Boat Club which seem to have led to a number of misunderstandings.

Firstly, and perhaps unfortunately for the cause of rowing, students are admitted to the university only if they are of a certain academic standard. This rules out any possibility of offering "rowing scholarships". Secondly, only the individual decides whether or not to row for his or her college and for the university, there being no compulsion to do either even if the individual is of international standard.

It is a fact that, whether the standard of rowing in the event merits

it or not, the Boat Race attracts more publicity than any other single rowing competition in the world. This in itself, quite substantially furthers the cause of rowing. I debate standards in such an ever by omitting any oarsman from the trials simply because he has graduated and rowed elsewhere would be more harmful to the cause than the raising of the average age of the competitors.

Thirdly, therefore, Oxford (and Cambridge) will continue simply include the best eight available oarsmen in their university crew on Boat Race day.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT MASON,  
President, Oxford University Boat Club,  
Kemble College,  
Oxford.  
March 24.







SPORT

Football

# Match of the day may take place in Antwerp

By Norman Fox  
Football Correspondent

Today's short respite from the breathless activity of this period in the football season gives all but six first division teams a welcome chance to recuperate and to watch international players of England and Wales go to their health farms and country retreats in preparation for the Wednesday World Cup qualifying games. It is a comparatively late stage in a season as so many clubs involved in the competing tests at the top and bottom of the championship.

Those involved in the deep shadows of relegation particularly need a moment to catch their breath. Tottenham, for example, a strange combination of good intentions and slipshod performance, and Bristol City, who have conceded fewer goals away from home than Liverpool but are also the first division's lowest away scorers, are working as usual.

Tottenham go to Everton with a safety margin of only three points over West Ham United, Sunderland and Bristol City, who have 21. Derby County, who recently grabbed one point from Tottenham during the week, are only a point ahead of the bottom three.

Everton, themselves uncomfortably close to the first division's relegation zone, have decided to include McKenzie in their party. He was dropped for last week's FA Cup tie with Derby County and the midweek League match against Liverpool because the manager, Gordon Lee, felt Pearson was more likely to work hard and be more effective. McKenzie has told McKenzie to "roll his sleeves up" but he has not said whether he will play him.

There is every chance he will, though, because Jones, Darracott and Hamilton have been left at Kenyon as a hamstring injury. With a run of nine consecutive games behind them, Everton should cope with Tottenham whose defenders have conceded only two goals in 10.

At this time in the season those clubs on the outer edge of the championship race begin to think of the possibility of losing it. Coventry in the season Newcastle United had more ambitious



Duncan McKenzie: has been told to "roll his sleeves up"

thoughts of the European Cup tie. Today they play Middlesbrough who have lost their way in recent weeks and are without Woods in the forward line.

Leicester City, also well placed for a view of Europe, would be happier if injuries had not come at a crucial moment. For today's home game with Bristol City they will be without a player who is a card case operation, and possibly Alderson and Sims.

The highlight of the weekend will probably be in Liverpool today when Belgium play the Netherlands in a World Cup group four qualifying game. From this it may be possible to draw clearer conclusions about England's defeat by the Dutch last month and it could give Belgium a three point lead.

The point that the Netherlands dropped to Northern Ireland in Rotterdam last October already threatens the Dutch with the possibility of failing to qualify. Also tonight Peru and Chile face one another in Lima in a match

which will decide which country leads Brazil and Bolivia in the South American regional finals.

John Toshack, the Liverpool striker, would like to see the team's plans to beat Czechoslovakia in the world cup qualifying game at Wrexham next Wednesday. It will be a test of the team's ability to win a game with an achilles tendon injury.

Yesterday's results  
Third division  
Bury v Oxford U (3.15)  
Chesterfield v Shrewsbury (3.15)  
Lincoln v Gillingham  
Mansfield v Chester  
Peterborough v Brighton  
Portsmouth v Northampton  
Sheffield Wed v Reading  
Swindon v Walsall  
York v Grimsby

Fourth division  
Aldershot v Barnsley  
Bournemouth v Watford  
Brentford v Swansea  
Bristol City v Crewe  
Hartlepool v Colchester  
Newport v Bradford City  
Southport v Cambridge U (3.15)  
Torquay v Darlington (7.30)  
Wokingham v Exeter

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: First division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Second division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Third division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Fourth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Fifth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Sixth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Seventh division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Eighth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Ninth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Tenth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Eleventh division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Twelfth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Thirteenth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Fourteenth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

Rugby Union

# Indirect penalties are introduced

The indirect free kick is to be introduced into Rugby Union from next season. The International Board meeting in London decided yesterday that certain types of infringement, which could be classified as technical, would be penalized by free kicks from which goals could not be scored.

The actual infringements concerned, believed to be about 22 in number, will not be decided until a special meeting of the board later this year. They are likely to include such things as a crooked feed and foot up opponents who are allowed to charge when the kicker begins his run or offers to kick.

No points will be allowed for kicks from a mark, either. Marks will only be awarded in the half of the field where the infringement occurred. Kicks will still be allowed from outside the half and from play and dangerous and rough play and obstruction.

Other board decisions were that the referee and captain could insist on an injured player leaving the field if they considered it dangerous for him to continue. And to establish a medical advisory committee.

The question of Norman Sanson, the Scotland referee who was ejected by France for their international against England at Twickenham, was raised by Scotland but passed to the four home unions.

The All Blacks will be seen in Britain again, this time in many parts of the country. It is also felt that there could be a board confirmed a short tour.

Yesterday's results  
Third division  
Bury v Oxford U (3.15)  
Chesterfield v Shrewsbury (3.15)  
Lincoln v Gillingham  
Mansfield v Chester  
Peterborough v Brighton  
Portsmouth v Northampton  
Sheffield Wed v Reading  
Swindon v Walsall  
York v Grimsby

Fourth division  
Aldershot v Barnsley  
Bournemouth v Watford  
Brentford v Swansea  
Bristol City v Crewe  
Hartlepool v Colchester  
Newport v Bradford City  
Southport v Cambridge U (3.15)  
Torquay v Darlington (7.30)  
Wokingham v Exeter

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: First division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

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ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Eighth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

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ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Fifteenth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Sixteenth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Seventeenth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Eighteenth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

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ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Twentieth division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

ATHELETIC LEAGUE: Twenty-first division: Aldershot v Barnsley (1.00), Bournemouth v Watford (1.00), Brentford v Swansea (1.00), Bristol City v Crewe (1.00), Hartlepool v Colchester (1.00), Newport v Bradford City (1.00), Southport v Cambridge U (3.15), Torquay v Darlington (7.30), Wokingham v Exeter (1.00).

Table tennis

# Clever Chinese have planned clean sweep

Desmond Douglas: many good wins behind him.

By Richard Streeton  
A new dynasty of Chinese players is expected to dominate every event when the 24th World Table Tennis Championships start today at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Record entries, totalling over 500 players from 67 countries, make the championships, sponsored by the National Exhibition Centre, the largest single sporting event to take place in Britain.

It will be China, however, who will provide the chief memories and spectacle for millions of television viewers around the world during the next 11 days. For a variety of reasons, not all of them concerned with sport, a full decade has elapsed since China, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, last showed the world the supreme heights in ability they can reach in their leading sport. Now they seem to have their sights set firmly on a clean sweep in both team events and the five individual competitions.

Their 22-strong team, whittled down from playing resources involving 5 million serious competitors in their country, have the ability to adapt their skills to whatever type of game is required. They have already gained a telling psychological advantage against the rest of the world's players by developing a novel type of surface, made from a new type of rubber, with longer pimples than usual, and the leading Europeans have found it difficult to counter the diversity of spin imparted.

In Calcutta, at the last World Championships two years ago, China won four of the five individual titles. In the last match, they won the men's singles, but the women's singles, which was the only event in which they were not victorious, was won by a player from the Soviet Union.

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Squash rackets

# One Khan is out and another fills his place

By Rex Ellery  
Squash Rackets Correspondent

Rehmanullah Khan, a Pakistan squash racket professional who has settled in London, should be £130 richer after a controversial decision by the committee organising the British open championships, sponsored by Lucas Industries, which begins today at Wembley. His compatriot, Sharif Khan, beat Geoff Hunt two months ago in the final of the North American open championships (the most important of the world's events) and was seeded 14th at Wembley.

But Sharif has scratched. Rehmanullah, who was drawn to play Geoff Hunt in the first round, has been promoted to the vacant seeding position and consequently shifted to an even-numbered position in the draw. There is always a fuss when any player is moved from one position to another after a draw has been published.

The practice is difficult to justify. Paul Whittell, of Essex, the man paired with Geoff Hunt, is understandably in a bit of a mood. He is finding it impossible to avoid them.

The British Open Championships decided four months ago that their leading sportsmen—more precisely, those they are in a position to play—should play out in the first round. It means that Hunt's four main rivals—Abdullah, Zaman, Akbar, and Akbar—must wait until the second round to meet him.

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Motor racing

# Stuck in Pace's Brabham at Long Beach

By John Blunsden

Hans Stuck, a 25-year-old German driver, has been engaged to replace Carlos Pace, the Argentine driver, who was killed in a first round race at Long Beach, California, on March 26. Stuck, who will join John Watson for the United States Grand Prix West at Long Beach on April 3, has been granted a one-season contract by Bernie Ecclestone, the owner of the Brabham team.

After several other drivers had been thought to be on the short list for the vacant drive, the choice of Stuck has come as a surprise not least to Guenter Schmid, a millionaire German industrialist

and former racing driver. Stuck was scheduled to have his first race for Schmid's newly formed ATS team at Long Beach.

Stuck's departure to the Brabham team could leave the way open for Rolf Stommelen to drive one of Schmid's Penske-Ford cars in the 1977 season.

Stuck, who has already tried the car's cockpit for size, is the more likely candidate for the race in California than Watson, who was a runner-up in the 1976 season.

Alan Jones will replace Tom Pryor, who lost his life in a crash at Silverstone, in the Shadow team. He will join them at Long Beach after a season of racing in

his native Australia. Brian Henton, from Derby, who went so well in the Race of Champions at Brands Hatch last Sunday when driving a Brabham, has been awarded a one-off works drive







# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

هكنا من العمل

Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

### Terms ready for bond issue to foreign holders of sterling balances

By David Blake  
Economics Correspondent

What will amount to a detailed prospectus for the new issue of government bonds to overseas holders of sterling balances, now looks likely to be sent out in the week after the Budget statement on Tuesday.

Final details of the bonds, which are to be issued under the terms of the "safety-net" agreed in 1975, are being settled by officials after consultations with sterling balance holders.

Mr Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to discuss the scheme with the governments of those countries.

About 75 per cent of the bonds will be issued in United States dollars, with Deutsche marks, Swiss franc and Japanese yen denominations also available in smaller amounts.

The term of the bonds could run between 5 and 10 years, depending on demand, though it is possible that term will be restricted to 6 to 9 years. Many of the bonds may be for 7 years.

Government officials say the decision has been taken about how many bonds will be sold to the official sterling holders,

who held \$2,203m (nearly £1,300m) at the end of last year. However, Continental Central bankers have said that at recent sessions of the Bank for International Settlements in Basle, Britain indicated around \$1,000m in the first instance.

Whitehall officials suggest that this figure has no particular significance.

It may be, however, that other countries see this as a reasonable level of sales.

The bonds are being sold very much at the suggestion of other industrialized countries who wanted a "funding" of the sterling balances to be part of any package deal. They are committed to put up money as a medium-term loan to the United Kingdom to cover any drain on our reserves caused by an outflow of sterling balances. Thus, the more bonds sold to balance-holders the less countries such as Germany and the United States will have to put up.

The bonds are expected to be negotiable but not marketable. The distinction is that no effort will be made by the Government to set up a market where they can be bought and sold.

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### Tate may spread jobs loss over three years

By Ronald Emiler  
and Ray Moseghon

Shop stewards within the Tate & Lyle sugar group were given details yesterday of the company's rationalization plans. These follow the controversial takeover of Manbré & Garton.

The company has refused to disclose the plans until Monday, but sources were suggesting last night that any redundancies would be phased over three years and some could be offset by offering employees jobs in other spheres of Tate & Lyle's operations.

This emerged on the same day that International Stores, the retailing subsidiary of B&A Industries, has agreed to sell its tea blending and packaging business, Ridgways, to Tate & Lyle.

Both Manbré and Tate had been discussing the industry's rationalization with successive governments for more than five years before the takeover. The newly merged interests have six refineries in the United Kingdom.

The price to be paid for Ridgways is still subject to audit, but it is understood that Tate will be paying between £1.75m and £1.95m in return for fixed assets and stock shown in the September balance sheets at £1.93m.

The deal will end International's interest in manufacturing, but earlier plans for Ridgways' development were changed by the fire at the Old Street, London, headquarters at the end of 1975. The staff was advised last August that a move to Enfield was under consideration, but the proposed purchase by the sugar refining group will eventually entail the transfer of production and administration to Liverpool. About 150-175 jobs within Ridgways' payroll of 200 are understood to be involved in the move to the North-West.

Mr G. Latham, joint managing director of International Stores, said yesterday: "We believe that Tate can do far more than we can to develop Ridgways." Tate's particular strengths, he thought, centred on selling, management and distribution.

Tate takes the view that tea is a grocery product that fits well with its sugar and syrups. It hopes to expand Ridgways' exports of £1m of tea a year. Also, the purchase offers Tate an opportunity to bring new jobs to Liverpool and, as promised, help to cut some of the redundancies arising from the acquisition of Manbré & Garton.

The Tate & Lyle refinery at Liverpool is one of the port refineries over which a question mark has been hanging since the merger. The loss of refining at Liverpool would affect employment directly and indirectly by reducing traffic through Liverpool docks.

Meantime, Ridgways' staff is to be offered alternative employment in Tate's London plants.

### £30m Leyland NEB loan authorized

By Edward Townsend

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, announced yesterday that he had authorized the payment of a promised £30m loan to British Leyland. This brings the amount of investment finance borrowed from public sources by the company in the past year to £80m.

The £30m facility, provided under section 8 of the Industry Act, was approved by Parliament last August as part of the initial £100m loan proposed under the terms of the now threatened Ryder plan for restructuring the company.

Of the remaining £70m, British Leyland has drawn £50m in two tranches from the National Enterprise Board, which obtains the capital on its own account, from the National Loans Fund.

The company had until the end of the fiscal year next week to draw the £30m, and has clearly delayed until the last moment because of the lower interest rates on loans it has obtained from foreign and non-public United Kingdom sources.

The final instalment of £20m from the NEB can only be taken up by Leyland providing proof of need, which it is expected to do within the next few weeks.

By the end of next year, the company will need the £100m injection to re-equip factories and start new model development programmes. The company's industrial relations problems, brought to a head by the recent toolmakers' strike, have now placed in jeopardy the whole

Ryder plan, envisaging £1,400m of investment from public sources by 1980-81, with at least another £1,000m generated by the company.

Leyland is due to apply for the next tranche of NEB funds in mid-March, but the amount, £20m, is now in doubt as the searching reviews of the Leyland plan by the NEB, the Department of Industry and the company itself get under way. Treasury officials are also being kept informed of progress.

The reviews are likely to result in a significant scaling down of the Ryder plan. It is also known that important changes to the company's management structure are under consideration.

Provision of future funds by the NEB, under its chairman Lord Ryder, will be studied in the light of the company's success in achieving a sustained and high rate of productivity. This week, under near normal working conditions, Leyland will be able to show that it can return rapidly to a healthy level of output.

In the past five days it is believed that the company's car assembly lines have matched the January weekly average output figure of 17,500 vehicles. By the middle of next week, barring any further disruption, the company should be producing cars at 20,000 a week, the target set last year to avoid the Government's "drastic review" of the car division overseas.

There are also hopes that the long-awaited Leyland spending on new machine

tools may soon begin. The Machine Tool Trades Association, which recently made strong representations to the company for a clear indication of future requirements, has been told that orders will start flowing between now and June.

Chief Webber writes: A deputation of senior shop stewards from Leyland Cars' Rover plant at Solihull yesterday asked for management help to recall workers who have refused to cross picket lines over the past two days.

Advertisements were placed in local newspapers last night informing all Rover employees that a strike by 60 Range Rover engine assemblers was unofficial and the pickets were operating without union authority.

Today the 63 members of the unofficial toolmakers' committee, meeting in Birmingham to decide their response to the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' offer of half the seats on the union's six-man delegation to serve on the new working group which will represent all Leyland manual unions in talks with management.

Albion switch: A major reorganization at Leyland's Albion plant, a plan approved by the 3,000-strong labour force. After reequipping, the plant is to become the Truck and Bus Group's major supplier of gearboxes, rear axles and suspension units. Hundreds of jobs will be created in the long term.

### Minister seeks CBI help for prices board

By Patricia Tisdall

A plea to the Confederation of British Industry to cooperate in setting up new price control machinery was made by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, last night.

In a concluding reply to CBI criticisms of the Government's proposals for new price curbs, Mr Hattersley said he hoped their reservations would not stop the CBI from cooperating in the establishment of the right sort of Price Commission.

The proposals, outlined in a consultation document released last month, included widening the powers of the Price Commission and provoked sharp opposition from the CBI.

Among other things the new price freeze machinery with which the Government is hoping to replace the present system on August 1 would give the commission considerable discretionary powers.

The chairman of the new-looking Price Commission is considered a key figure in a flexible structure, and among the names

speculated is Sir Campbell Adamson, the former director-general of the CBI.

He already had some names in mind, he said, and he would like to make an announcement at the same time as he presented a Bill in the Commons.

"My fear is that the CBI will look at the proposals more in terms of theology rather than practicality," he said.

Under Mr Hattersley's consultation proposals, the Commission would have new powers to instigate inquiries into pricing practices on its own initiative.

Following such an investigation it would have the ability to freeze a price rise application for up to three months. The Prices Secretary would have the power to extend the freeze for up to a year.

Among the CBI's objections to the proposals is the duration of the price restraint order after a commission investigation. It wants the extension to last no more than six months.

Further opposition to the proposals came yesterday from Mr Rector Laing, chairman of the Food and Drink Industry Council.

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### OECD sees Britain as oil exporter

Paris, March 25.—Britain's annual energy consumption could grow to more than 250 million tonnes of oil equivalent by 1985, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development said today.

The forecast, just released, appears in an appendix to the OECD's annual survey of Britain's economic prospects, published last week.

Annual oil flow from the United Kingdom continental shelf could rise to just over 10 million tonnes by 1980 and some 15 million by 1985 from 12 million last year, the OECD says.

North Sea oil production would thus be equivalent to some 40 per cent of total energy needs in 1980 and 45-55 per cent in 1985, enabling Britain to cover all its needs from domestic sources.

The OECD said it envisaged an even division between North Sea oil for domestic use and for export.

Such a split would make the United Kingdom a net oil exporter but it would still import some 100 million tonnes of oil a year, amounting to 25 per cent of its total expected energy requirements.

### Austrian special steel faces dumping inquiry

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Correspondent

Further protection for Britain's specialist steelmakers is in prospect. Investigations are to be launched into the alleged dumping of high speed and tool steel bars from Austria as a result of submissions made by the British Independent Steel Producers' Association.

The imports, while low in terms of volume, have a high value and are used principally in the engineering industry. In a statement last night the Department of Trade said that an investigation under the anti-dumping legislation, would be concerned with those high-speed and tool steel imports from Austria which were not the subject of the association agreement between Austria and the European Coal and Steel Community.

Trade in ECSC products is governed by rules which specify how and in what circumstances prices can be reduced to meet competition from other sources. The department is also considering applications for special steel imports from Japan, Sweden and Spain.

Last September the Japanese steelmakers, after lengthy discussions at government level with the EEC, agreed to restrain their special steel

exports to the United Kingdom in the period to June this year. Next week a Commission delegation will be in Tokyo for talks with government officials on the levels of special steel shipments in the second half of the year.

The Department also said that after the allegations against dumped imports of high speed and tool steels from Sweden, the authorities there were at present studying detailed allegations of breaches of the ECSC alignment rules, and alleged dumping of those products not covered by the ECSC treaty.

Formal investigations into imports of stainless steel from Spain have nearly been completed.

Last night BISPA gave the announcement a qualified welcome.

In another development on the steel front, the Department of Trade is expected to lift duty payments on imports of hot rolled heavy steel plates. This is used in armour plating, and is not produced by the British Steel Corporation nor is it understood, by the private sector.

Whitehall is considering a request for the imports to be exempted from duty until the end of June this year.

### Talks to lift Arab ban on Vickers

By Malcolm Brown

Vickers, the shipbuilding and engineering group, last night said it was negotiating with the Arab Boycott of Israel Office to have its name taken off the trade blacklist.

The company's comment was made after reports that Vickers had been blacklisted in Saudi Arabia, a major Arab League country operating the blacklisting system. Barclays Bank has also been listed in Saudi Arabia.

Vickers attracted unwelcome publicity earlier this month when it was disclosed in press reports that Israeli naval experts were in this country for delivery of three Vickers submarines.

The company repeated last night that it was not its policy to comment on individual defence contracts. It stressed that the blacklisting did not affect negotiations for defence equipment for Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries, but referred only to other products.

The Saudi Arabian government gazette *al-Qura* named Vickers, Barclays, the American Colgate concern and several other companies, because of dealings with Israel.

### Meal vouchers tax plea

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

Vast differences in tax treatment between companies which provide workers' canteens and those which issue workers with luncheon vouchers was brought to the attention of the Commons yesterday by Mr Peter Brooke, the new Conservative MP for the Cities of London and Westminster South.

He presented a petition to Parliament signed by more than 5,500 City workers who said they made an appeal in this way because they had no organized body to lobby for them. Mr Brooke could do no more than present the petition. No

speeches in support of a petition are allowed on such occasions. But it was obvious that the workers concerned believe that they may get a better deal from their employers if the tax situation is corrected.

The petitioners asked Mr Healey, the Chancellor, to rectify the existing discrepancy between the 15p tax concession on the luncheon voucher and the tax-free subsidy enjoyed by canteens.

They pointed out that the "canteen" subsidy on companies which provided canteen facilities had gone up consistently with inflation, but the luncheon voucher tax concession had remained static since 1948.

### Fed steps up investigation into scale of foreign lending by US commercial banks

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, March 25  
America's Federal Reserve Board has increased the frequency of its examinations into the foreign activities of American-owned banks.

The Fed is also conducting an informal survey among 25 leading domestic banks of the way they monitor and control their foreign loan exposure, according to Mr Henry Wallich, a Fed governor.

Mr Wallich told a congressional committee the Fed was concerned about the scale of commercial bank foreign lending, but he stressed that the dimensions of the problems in this area should not be overstated.

He pointed out that concern about such loans had naturally increased since it became clear during 1976 that "the Oneo" surpluses will be larger and persist longer than had been expected several years ago.

Mr Wallich said the Fed was now working with Group of Ten central banks, and with the bank for International Settlements, in an effort to obtain

much more detailed information on commercial bank foreign lending. By the end of 1976, he said, claims on foreigners of domestic offices and foreign branches of American banks totalled \$207,000m (£114,500m).

According to informed international monetary sources there is a broad acceptance among governors of the Group of Ten central banks that the leading international private banks will have to continue to play the prime role in providing loans to support the oil-related payments deficits of most countries.

They stress that new International Monetary Fund efforts in this area may at best permit the private banks to modify the scale of their new foreign lending.

Negotiations aiming at creating a new source of funds for the IMF are progressing ahead, but no details have been agreed so far. The sources said it was unrealistic to suggest that new arrangements would definitely produce some \$15,000m to \$20,000m.

These were the sort of figures that the IMF was intent upon obtaining, but "absolutely no firm commitments" had yet been won from the three largest probable suppliers of funds, the United States, Saudi Arabia and West Germany.

Mr Wallich stated in his congressional testimony that the end of 1976 American banks held \$45,000m of claims on non-oil-producing developing countries, of which Brazil accounted for \$11,800m, Mexico \$11,500m, and South Korea \$3,100m.

The Fed governor reported that "United States bank lending to some of the more highly publicized problem countries have actually been relatively small."

He added: "The largest share of the foreign assets of United States banks (totaling about \$100,100m) represent claims on Group of Ten countries and Switzerland, and claims on offshore banking centres such as the Bahamas, Singapore, Panama and Hong Kong (\$23,900m)."

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### In brief

#### BNOC spent £400m in first year

British National Oil Corporation spent about £400m in its first year, Lord Kearton, the chairman, said yesterday. He told a press conference in Glasgow that the first draft of the corporation's annual report for 1976 had been considered by the board at yesterday's monthly meeting.

"We have spent about £270m acquiring assets," he said. "The remainder was spent on development. Of the 20 rigs currently operating in the North Sea, we are the operators in two and we have a share in another four." Income during the year amounted to a few millions, "half the proceeds of the Viking gas field in the southern North Sea."

Lord Kearton said the Claymore oilfield would be "a little late" but the Piper field would be about a year ahead of schedule. As a result, Britain should be self-sufficient in oil by 1979-80.

Welsh tool stake  
The Welsh Development Agency announced yesterday an investment of £250,000 in M. Mole and Son—subject to shareholders' approval—to enable the Newport-based company to expand overseas sales of its range of self-grip wrenches and other hand tools.

The money will also provide additional working capital. It was expected to create new jobs in the short term, with further employment to follow.

Paint price reference  
Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, announced in a Commons written reply yesterday that he had referred the

subject of decorative paint prices to the Price Commission. He is asking the commission to examine the wide variations in retail prices of the same household paints.

Hitachi plant talks  
The Radio Industry Council has been invited to meet Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, next Thursday to discuss the United Kingdom television manufacturing and component supply industries' objections to plans for Hitachi to set up a manufacturing plant in the North-East.

£18m Beecham venture  
The Beecham group is seeking planning permission for a £18m pharmaceutical plant on the Sharnock industrial development area in Clare, Irish Republic. On completion, the plant, producing penicillins and bulk compounds, is expected to provide about 250 jobs.

Equities lose impetus  
Equities ended a difficult week on a quiet note and at 418.1 the FT index stood 10.4 lower over the five days. As expected, M.L.R. was unchanged but most interest in gilts centred on the new £800m 1992 stock which saw a lively demand and closed with a 5.61 premium on the £15 issue price. Investor's week, page 19

'Crisis of century'  
Government spending cuts are helping to push the building industry into one of its most serious recessions of the century, a report claimed yesterday. New construction was suffering more than 10 times as

### How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
APV Ridges 7p to 332p	Carlyle Bank 7p to 255p
Stock 22p to 120p	Leahurst Grp 6p to 442p
Low 6p 50p to 90p	Boots 4p to 153p
Low 6p 41p to 74p	Leahurst 4p to 353p
	Leahurst 8p to 485p
	Leahurst 8p to 217p
	Leahurst 8p to 514p
	Leahurst 8p to 350p
	Leahurst 8p to 36p
	Leahurst 8p to 36p

The Times index: 171.67-1.19  
The FT index: 418.1-3.3

THE POUND	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
Australia \$ 1.61	1.56	
Austria Sch 30.50	28.50	
Belgium Fr 65.25	62.25	
Canada \$ 1.98	1.80	
Denmark Kr 10.38	9.48	
Finland Mk 6.75	6.50	
France Fr 8.77	8.45	
Germany Dm 4.27	4.05	
Greece Dr 64.75	61.75	
Hong Kong \$ 8.20	7.75	
Italy Lit 1545.00	1490.00	
Japan Yen 400.00	475.00	
Netherlands Gld 4.45	4.23	
Norway Kr 9.28	8.97	
Portugal Esc 68.00	64.00	
Spain Pes 162.50	153.25	
Sweden Kr 7.50	7.15	
Switzerland Fr 4.54	4.32	
US \$ 1.76	1.71	
Yugoslavia Ddr 4.25	32.00	

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Quoties ended the week quietly. Hedged securities fell back. Dollar premium 111.50 per cent effective rate 99.10 per cent. Sterling lost 3 pps to \$1.717. The "effective devaluation" rate was 1.8 per cent.

On other pages  
Bank Base Rates Table 20 Interim Statement: Electronic Machine Co 18 Unit Trust: M & G 17

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## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Pensions

## Are you likely to get an increase?

If you are a member of a scheme whose trustees have the power to increase pension rates when they wish—within broad limits—you will have to look beyond the explanatory booklet, or the rules for that matter, to assess your prospects of maintaining living standards in retirement.

The best guide to the future is what has happened in the past. If there have been no increases it would be unreasonable to expect that the future holds any different prospect. If there have been increases awarded from time to time, it is important to know how frequently reviews are carried out.

Some schemes are run on a basis which is quite deliberately intended to produce resources sufficient to increase pensions after they start to be paid. You are not likely to be able to discover whether this is the situation in your scheme except by looking at results.

The only place where it is apparent what financial arrangements are made for the scheme is in the actuary's report, which is not normally made available to the members, and if it is, may well be technical in the way it confuses rather than clarifies.

If the scheme does not set out in advance to finance pension increases, it will be able to do so only if there have been fortuitous profits or if the employer has put in additional contributions. Many schemes have shown profits in the past because of staff turnover, but this source is much less significant now, because the new legislation about rights on leaving service requires that members leaving should be given benefits in respect of their service.

Investment profits are the other major source of spare cash and some schemes have performed consistently well and thus provided for pension revaluation. More recently, however, investment conditions have been very unfavourable, and investment managers have been hard pressed to maintain the solvency of their schemes without additional support from the employer.

On top of all this, pay increases have put an additional strain on most pension schemes, leaving less prospect still of finding the money to increase pensions out of unbudgeted surplus.

Some employers are much more open about their scheme's finances than others and you may find that your scheme authorities are prepared to talk about the consistency with which they have adopted, particularly in the schemes of larger employers, you are quite likely to find that there are even member representatives on the scheme's governing body, and there are no secrets at all.

On the other hand, particularly in a small firm, the employer may not disclose the basis on which the scheme is being financed; at the same time, if the scheme is run by an insurance company, and on the whole it is the smaller schemes which are insured, it is likely that there will be an explicit mention of increases if they are allowed for.

In most insured schemes pension increases are at a fixed annual rate, but there are four or five insurance companies which offer a basis by which the rate of increase is linked to investment results. The members' booklet will normally make this clear.

The modern trend is towards the provision of more extensive information for scheme members and last year the government produced a White Paper setting out proposed legislation on the subject, following a report from the Occupational Pensions Board.

Against this, the technicalities of pension scheme funding are so complex that they may be incomprehensible or, worse, misleading, without long and detailed explanation. Most schemes—and the Government's proposals—stop short of the publication of actuarial reports for this reason. This is one area where you are probably better advised to avoid jumping to conclusions on your own.

Eric Brunet

## Investment trusts

## Standard bid opens way for more

No less than two alternative suitors presented themselves for Standard Trust, this week, and the week before Commercial Union bid for Estates House.

This renewal of activity in the investment trust sector is welcome. Share prices have tended to hang fire since February, once the initial excitement of the British Rail Pension Fund offer for Standard Trust wore off.

Indeed, it looked at one point as though a combination of the rather ungenerous offer from the pension fund and the highly defensive posture of Touché Remnant, Standard's managers, might well dissuade other potential customers from attempting any further takeovers elsewhere in the sector. There have been false dawns in the past.

But the paper and cash alternative offers from Commercial Union and the Prudential for Standard have set the tone for agreed bids in the sector. Commercial Union valued Estates House at asset value and although the Prudential has allowed for capital gains tax liabilities, it has none the less plumped for a significantly more generous cash offer than British Rail, which deducted both this and the dollar premium surrender in arriving at its price.

The British Rail Pension Fund, as someone rather unkindly remarked, can go back to its art collections, where such complicated formulae do not apply. What is clear is that BRPF, or any other bidder, is going to have to pay the full price for the investment trusts it has in its sights.

Assessing bids for both the bidder and the recipient is a complex business. It is hard on the managers like Touché.

Even if they feel that a bid, such as one from BRPF, is too low, it is difficult to justify resistance, knowing that if it is rejected the shares will return to their traditional discount on assets.

Different bidders have different objectives, and three basic ones have now emerged. The purpose for the British Rail bid was to acquire a sizable equity portfolio that would otherwise be difficult and expensive to build up. On this basis it was clearly rather mean to make a deduction for the dollar premium surrender when there was no intention, indeed quite the reverse, to sell the portfolio.

Schlesinger's rather surprise approach to Standard earlier this week opened up another possibility. The idea was to absorb Standard Trust into the group's unit trust sub-fund with investors swapping their shares for units.

For a fairly modest unit trust operation such as Schlesinger's a bid for an investment trust is a quick and reasonably inexpensive way of increasing the size of funds under management.

For the private shareholder who wishes to remain invested and has no objection to unit trusts there is no liability to capital gains tax on the share exchange. But institutional shareholders do not like the idea (Schlesinger was apparently prepared for 50 per cent sales after unitization). The bulk of the investment trust industry is against unitization and the Schlesinger approach obviously requires the cooperation of the investment trust board. Investment trust managers are capable of utilizing their trusts themselves if

## HOW THE SECTOR HAS BEEN WARMING UP

1976 September  
Trafalgar House bids for Direct Spanish Telegraph.

Edward du Cann and others acquires 43 per cent of First Taxisman.

Scottish and Second Scottish Investment Trusts merger.

Proposed amalgamation of Menpith Investment Trust with Cabot Unit Trust.

Proposed merger of Telephone & General and Temple Bar Investment Trusts.

S. Pearson makes cast offer for Embankment Investment Trust.

1977 January

British Rail Pension Fund bids for Standard Trust.

SPR Investments considers unitization.

Cable and Globe Investment Trusts propose a merger.

They want to, and preserving funds under their own management as is happening with Rothschild's New Court European investment trust.

But Schlesinger, or any other similarly ambitious fund management group, might well consider an approach to one of the several sizable independent groups in the investment trust stable where there is no management company with a vested interest in maintaining funds under its own control.

The agreed bids from the Prudential for Standard and CU for Estates House clearly knock on the head the notion that a

Bricom bids for Menteith Investment Trust.

New Court European Trust proposes unitization.

Arbuthnot Latham takes over Jonian Bank's Leda and Jove Investment Trusts.

February

Guinness Pear bids for London Electrical & General Investment Trust.

Simonside Investment Trust announces proposals for liquidation.

March

Tricentral bids for Ashmore Investment Trust.

Dayway Day bids for Floreat Investment Trust.

Commercial Union bids for Estates House.

London & Scottish America and United States Debenture propose merger.

Schlesinger proposes unitization of Standard Trust.

Prudential emerges as third bidder for Standard Trust.

fixed needs to have tucked a bid of £100 million under his belt before launching a takeover. The sector would therefore seem wide open, as never before.

Apart from unitization, what can the investment trust managers do, without indulging in a massive network of cross-holdings or mammoth mergers for which they have been roundly condemned in the past?

Now that the pressure is clearly on, some stockbrokers and merchant bankers are canvassing their investment trust clients with proposals to launch convertible loan stocks as a

solution to some of the industry's most urgent problems.

Dissatisfaction with investment trusts springs from the discount and the oversupply of investment trust shares. One way of looking at the problem is to say that the market capitalization of the investment trust sector is simply too large in relation to the amount of money chasing it.

Unlike a unit trust an investment trust cannot buy its own shares, but there is nothing to prevent it from buying its own deferred equity, in the form of convertible stock. It is perhaps a cumbersome weapon, but none the less one which would enable the industry to contract itself in an orderly manner instead of being forced to wait, like sinking ducks, for others to do the job for them.

For a normal trust it would involve issuing convertible stock at par by way of rights on the understanding that the discount on the ordinary shares, once the stock fell to a certain discount on assets. With a rights issue on a one-for-one basis, for instance, the capitalization of ordinary shares in issue would be reduced by half.

In addition, the convertible route should provide a mechanism for preventing the discount on the ordinary shares falling through the floor, since it would give the managers ability in the market to prevent the sort of tailspin that investment trust shares find themselves in once the market generally shows signs of weakness.

Margaret Drummond

## Taxation: readers ask

## Gains on houses • Property transfer • Redundancy

This end of the month round-up of readers letters covers capital gains tax (the conversion of one's main residence), capital transfer tax exemptions, interest payments and golden handshakes.

A reader tells me that his main—and only—residence belongs to his wife and himself jointly. He says: "We are thinking about the time when it will be too big for us; and one of our thoughts is that we might divide it into two main sections and sell one, continuing to live in the other."

"On general principles it would appear that no capital gains tax would be payable either when we sell the unwanted main section or when we sell the second one or die in it; but as there may be some quirk of the law that affects this I would be grateful for your advice."

"Certainly no capital gains tax will be payable on a subsequent sale of the main section, that this couple will occupy. So far as the other main section is concerned if the Inland Revenue feels so minded it might try to tax part of the gain under Schedule 12 paragraph 2 (1), Finance Act 1965, which says that exemption does not apply to that part of the gain attributable after the beginning of the period of ownership and incurred wholly or partly for the purpose of making a gain from the disposal."

There is also section 29 (6), Finance Act 1965 which tells us that if at any time in the period of ownership there is a change in what is occupied as the individual's residence, whether on account of a reconstruction or conversion of a building or for any other reason, the relief from CGT may be adjusted in such a manner as the Commissioners concerned may consider to be just and reasonable.

So there is a possibility that what this reader proposes to do will attract some capital gains tax.

On capital transfer tax a reader says that his main assets are his home and an investment property. He wants to make use of the £2,000 annual exemption in this way.

"I have asked my solicitor how a slice valued at £2,000 can be given to one of my grandchildren each year, of either one or the other property, and his reply is by a simple form of deed of gift, which attracts no stamp duty. At the end of the time when the total value of the fixed property has been so given away in slices he confirms that a conveyance duly stamped for the total value will have to be drawn and executed."

"Is this annual deed of gift, for the slices of £2,000, the proper manner in which it should be done, and can you refer me to a precedent form for this purpose? Do you confirm my solicitor's advice?"

"I do not like disagreeing with a solicitor on the subject of conveyingance because he knows a lot more about it than I do. But looking at the proposed transactions from a tax point of view: to be an effective gift for CIT there has to be a "disposition" by the donor "as a result of which the value of his estate immediately after the disposition is less than it would be but for the disposition" (section 20, Finance Act 1975).

The word disposition is not defined in the Act, but applying its ordinary meaning it will cover the payment of money, the conveyance and transfer of property and creation of settlements.

It seems to me that there is no actual passing of property in the suggested arrangement to make the gift effective. When the title to the property is transferred by a conveyance there will be a gift at that time and at that value. However, I may have overlooked a subtlety in the proposals and if



This reader could find out a little more about them I will look at it again.

★ ★ ★

Last month when answering a reader's letter on the income tax position of a husband moving out of the mortgaged matrimonial home I said that "where borrowings, up to a total of £25,000, are spent on the main residence of the individual and of his/her separated spouse, the interest for both properties is tax deductible."

In answer to another reader's inquiry the statutory reference is Schedule 1, paragraph 4, Finance Act 1974. What I said did not go quite far enough in that the total borrowings of £25,000 can be spent not only on the main residence used by the borrower or his separated spouse, but also on the main residence used by his former spouse or a dependent relative.

The ceiling of £25,000 has not been raised since this piece of law came into being in 1974 and it is to be hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will do something about it in his forthcoming budget.

★ ★ ★

On deed of covenant payments made in favour of his adult children who are still receiving full-time education a reader asks whether the payments count towards the £2,000 annual exemption. Provided the payments are made for the maintenance, education or training of the children they are exempt in their own right until the education or training ceases, in which case the £2,000 exemption is additional.

★ ★ ★

Finally, an inquiry following my article on redundancy and golden handshake payments.

"My husband was made redundant in July, 1976, and received a lump sum under the terms of the Redundancy Act 1965 plus an ex gratia payment from his former employer, totalling over £5,000."

"The excess over £5,000 was included with his final salary payment and taxed under PAYE. It seems to me that the standard capital superannuation benefit would in his case extinguish all liability to tax on this excess sum. Can you refer me to the appropriate section of the taxing acts which gives authority for this relief?"

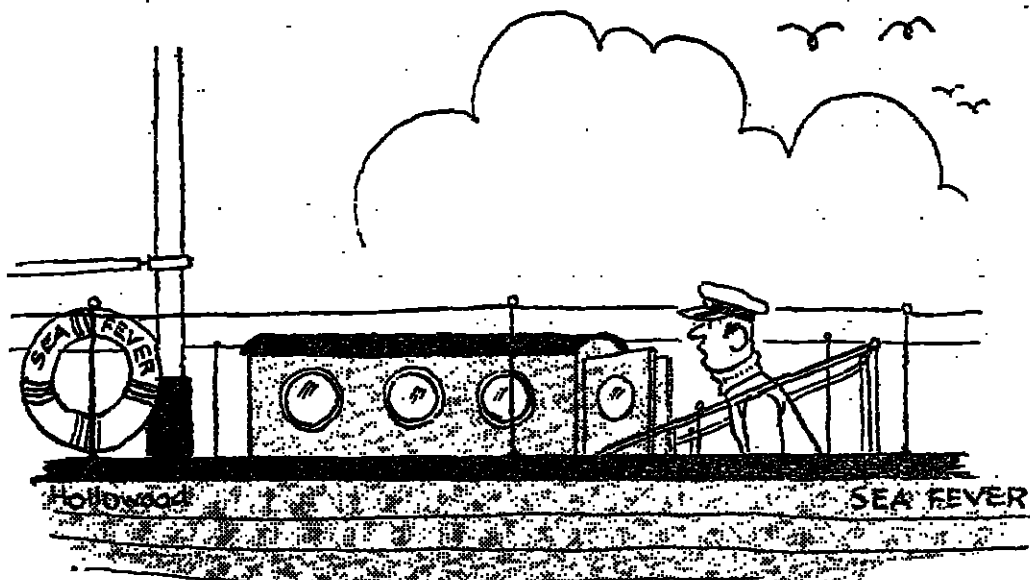
"From your experience can you say whether the onus is on my husband to raise this matter with his Inspector of Taxes, or will the relief be given as a matter of course in computing his tax liability for 1976-1977?"

"The statutory reference is section 183(2) and Schedule 3, Taxes Act 1970. Where the payment exceeds £5,000 the employer is required to deduct tax under PAYE on the excess unless a standard capital superannuation benefit has first been agreed with the tax office."

Where the tax deducted is excessive it is up to the employee to send in a claim for repayment to the tax office. This reader's husband should therefore write to the tax office stating the facts to get the repayment under way."

Vera Di Palma

## Insurance



"Owners who leave their boats open to improve ventilation... are unlikely to be able to claim for theft losses."

If you own a yacht or boat the insurance policy, and the clauses attached to it, may be couched in fairly old-fashioned language and thus be difficult to understand. Gradually, insurers are introducing greater simplicity and giving a little wider cover; but there is still some way to go.

Thefts of vessels and gear are reaching serious proportions. But there are occasions when claims are turned down. Normally, any dinghy or ship's tender is covered against theft (or any other form of loss) only if it is permanently marked with the name of the parent vessel.

There is no cover for the pilferage of gear. Normally, only theft involving "forcible entry" is insured. If gear lying on the deck is stolen, the insurers are unlikely to pay.

There must have been "forcible entry" such as a ripped cover or a forced hatch. Owners who leave their boats open, to improve ventilation and reduce condensation, are unlikely to be able to claim for theft losses.

Claiming for gear which has been stored ashore is not easy if its disappearance was not noticed for some time. One is in a much stronger position if the time of disappearance can be pinned down, say to the hours of darkness, during a particular night. Incidentally, forcible entry does not mean that a lock has to be forced, although, clearly, that should avoid virtually all difficulty.

Remember, when buying one boat and buying another, to tell the insurers so that the

## Boats are not all plain sailing

insurance can be amended. The same rule applies to outboard motors. Often, claims are made for outboard motors, but there is no cover because the motors were acquired after the insurance came into force, and the insurers had not been told.

Sometimes, also, claims are made under a yacht policy for the loss of clothing, personal items, and so on. Normally, there is no cover for these under a yacht policy. One definition of what is covered is "the vessel, herself, her machinery, boat(s), gear or equipment, such as would be sold with the vessel if she changed hands."

It may be possible to make special arrangements for other items to be covered under the yacht policy. Or it may be more satisfactory for them to be insured under one's household policy. In the latter event, the household insurers must be told that the items will be taken to sea regularly; this may justify a higher premium.

Be careful about towing other vessels, or being towed. Quoting against the Insured Yacht Clauses, there is

cover "to assist and to tow vessels or craft in distress, or as is customary, but it is warranted that the vessel shall not be towed, except in an emergency, or when in need of assistance, or undertake towage or salvage services under a contract previously arranged by owners, masters, managers or charterers."

What is meant by the term "as is customary"? Generally it is looked upon as normal everyday towing, such as from moorings to a yacht yard within the harbour limits. It does not mean a fairly long tow, such as across the Solent. If anything like that is contemplated, the insurers' agreement must be obtained in advance.

Finally, the insured value should be kept up to date. Boats have not depreciated in value at the same rate as in the past; sometimes they have appreciated in value. As a premium-saving exercise, some owners deliberately under-insure.

Run-of-the-mill repairs will be paid up to the insured value, but clearly, in the event of anything more serious, such as the total loss of the boat, the maximum which will be paid is the insured value.

If there should be salvage charges at any stage, they will be calculated on the salvaged value of the boat. Should there be under-insurance, insurers will pay only their rateable proportion of the charges, leaving the owner to meet the balance.

John Drummond

## Fixed interest investment

## Changing strategy for a new portfolio

Looking back on the performance of the market in general and of my high income portfolio in particular since I established it just over two months ago, I am glad that I started it then and not now. If I were to start again now, I would be adopting different tactics.

I am beginning to have some serious doubts about how much further the drop in interest rates has to go. I know that rates in the London money markets have been falling hand over fist—even FPI put its rates to small depositors down by a point on all terms last week.

I know that gilt-edged prices have been rising fast, with only some momentary agitation at the prospect of a general election to interrupt the trend last week. I know that the Government's attempts to take some of the steam out of the longer-end of the gilt-edged market by issuing a new "C" stock, Exchange 12½ per cent 1992, have not worked out exactly as planned, for the stock was heavily oversubscribed on issue. But I still think that interest rates have little further to fall.

What worries me is inflation. The rate is running at double our competitors' and it is likely to stay that way for the foreseeable future. It is bound to be reflected in the value of sterling at some point—unless we spend our prospective balance of payments surplus in propping it up at unrealistic heights (unlikely). I maintain an interest rate differential which will keep our overseas investors happy.

So I would not expect rates to have much more than another point to fall and I would not be surprised if they were on the way up again towards the end of the year.

Under these circumstances I see no reason to abandon my strategy which is to obtain the maximum possible income commensurate with safety and some growth in my return, but I would aim at achieving it through investments which were either short-dated or highly marketable.

I was stuck with my British Leyland stock, for all that the developments there have been somewhat unimpressive. I bought on the view that the company would not go under or that, if it did, I would more than get

## HIGH INCOME PORTFOLIO

	Yield %	Price
Treasury 15½% 1983	14.1	111.5
Brit Leyland 6½	13.8	108.5
Barclays 12½ 1985-89	13.8	108.5
Turner & Newall 11½	13.1	101.1
Unilever 1985-89	12.2	102.0
Gratiot Warehouse	12.0	96.0

my money back, and I see no reason to change that view.

In place of my Turner & Newall stock I would choose something similarly long-dated but with a lower coupon—say, the Imperial Group 7½ per cent secured loan stock 2004-09, which at 56 is yielding just under 13½ per cent flat. That, I know, is about a point less than my Turner & Newall stock would give, but because the coupon is lower I stand to make more capital gain while rates continue to fall, and I would hope to sell out at a comfortable profit.

I would not change my equities—though I note that Trust Houses Forte has been doing rue proud—but I might choose a much shorter-dated instrument for the funds I have in mind. Thus among the local authorities, if I tucked my money away for a year I could look for 11 per cent on a minimum of £500 from Suffolk Coastal (as against 13 per cent on the same amount from Harrogate on a term running to the end of March, 1979).

But I think I would probably choose instead to take advantage of a new scheme which United Dominions Trust has introduced, under which depositors with multiples of £1,000, to a limit of £100,000, can obtain a half per cent return above the average rate obtainable from local authorities for seven-day money. Last week the rate quoted was 10½ per cent, and I would not expect it to drop much when it is recalculated on Monday morning.

That is, I grant, a little below what you can get from a local authority on a one-year term and quite a lot below the grossed up rate on a building society term deposit, but the beauty of it is that you can pull your money out at seven days' notice.

What? It has the clearing banks and the Bank of England behind it now. And, in any case, nothing ventured...

Adrienne Gleeson



## THE EMC GROUP OF COMPANIES

## INTERIM RESULTS

The unaudited results for the six months ended 31st October 1976 of Electronic Machine Company Limited and subsidiary companies are as follows:

	6 months to 31.10.76	6 months to 31.10.75
Group Turnover	1,021,000	791,000
Group Profit Before Taxation	(161,982)	31,000
Estimated Taxation (Loss) Profit after all charges including Taxation	(161,982)	15,000

As stated by the Chairman at the Annual General Meeting the greater part of the losses for the first six months were incurred as a result of the reorganization of the metal pressing division. This division is in the first four months of the second half showing an increasingly profitable trend.

Current turnover for the Group is running 50% up on last year. Group order books are now in excess of three quarters of a million pounds. It is not expected that the first six months reorganization losses will be totally absorbed by the second half turn up. But 1977/78 should be one of increasing profit due to the higher level of trading.

25th March, 1977

## Horrors of life without a secretary...

We are over half way through Lent and many of you are doubtless missing the things you have given up. Unless, that is, you decided at the outset to give up giving things up. In this connexion, I suggest to any executive who wishes to mortify the flesh next year that he thinks very carefully about giving up his secretary, like I did.

Although my secretary is exceedingly beautiful, it is also a fact that her husband is an ex-military police sergeant, a champion. Anyway, she decided to have several babies and move to the New Forest, but we've had her together for more than eight years and neither of us really wanted to work with anybody else much. So after a fearful re-vell and an exchange of gifts, we agreed that the time a formal had gone by neither of us could stand it any more and we agreed to try to carry on our wonderful relationship on tape.

It works. I tape absolutely everything and she keeps my stationary cupboard in her kitchen next to the onions. An extra two days have to be allowed for post at either end, but flexibility must be the keynote and one soon learns to

cope with such pinpricks. It is not a bit like having an ordinary audio-typist from the pool doing one's work—the tape gets jazzed up with lots of informal chit-chat which puts one in a relaxed mood for dictation, as a bonus.

The actual work can be organized all right, but there are disadvantages. It must be admitted. The first and foremost of these is the telephone. Executives with secretaries may imagine that the telephone is a device which magically conveys the person you want to speak to when you pick it up. I can assure you that this is not so.

Just try dialling for yourself for a while and keep a tally on the number of wrong numbers and crossed lines you get, not to mention the howls and whistles and mysterious death-watch beetle clicks. But even these are better than the dead silence treatment. Speak nothing at the end of the line time after time is almost unbearable—and that was one of the things that used to make your secretary cry while you waited for her at the other end of the extension.

The blotter is another problem. If you doodle on your

blotter like I do you may not have been aware of it up until now because your secretary will always have whiskered away the dirty pieces of blotting paper and replaced them with new and pristine ones. Now that you have to do this for yourself, you feel a terrible strain. But since doodling is an essential outlet for nervous tension if you stop it you are heading for an ulcer. Try bending paper clips into funny shapes. But since doodling is an essential outlet for nervous tension if you stop it you are heading for an ulcer. Try bending paper clips into funny shapes. But since doodling is an essential outlet for nervous tension if you stop it you are heading for an ulcer. Try bending paper clips into funny shapes.

Then there is this loathsome business of breaking one's air-line or rail tickets. Timetables are things I am quite hopeless about. I always find myself in the wrong column or in Kingston-upon-Thames rather than London-upon-Hull.

Women are better at it, having the advantage of a higher degree of spatial awareness than men. Something like that. Anyway the moral is to get your boss's secretary to fix everything up for you. She won't like it, but a touch of the "little boy lost" will generally do the trick.

Finally, I present for your consideration the coffee vending machine. In the past you

have been accustomed to demanding coffee at all hours in a peremptory manner and getting it. You now have the charming experience of putting

in a 2p piece and having it rattle twelve times on the run into the little pocket at the bottom. The thirteenth time it jerks into action with a great

humming and clanking, a white plastic cup appears and the machine squirts a mixture of cocoa and chicken soup into it.

This is because you are unaccustomed to its little tantrums which are dealt with by thumping it with the edge of the fist on the right hand side just about where the fourth rib would be if it had ribs. Only if this is done before putting the coin in will you get coffee, as requested, first time.

But it's too late now because it is making anguished grinding sounds and here is your boss striding towards you down the corridor. Not only have you broken the machine, he informs you, but his secretary has done none of his work this whole morning because she has been arranging your precious tickets. He speeds on up the corridor in overdrive and disappears into the distance like a tiny laser beam of fury. It was not the sack, as P. C. Woodhouse put it, but you could hear the beating of its wings.</



EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

## Investor's week

MAIN RISES AND FALLS OF THE WEEK				
Rises				
Year's high	Year's low	Company	Movement	Comment
286p	170p	De La Rue	20p to 380p	Formica sale
286p	64p	Morris H	34p to 228p	Hopie of better terms
193p	111p	Pork Farms	38p to 193p	Comment
88p	32p	Rathens	12p to 88p	Bid talk
		Wallis FJ	17p to 65p	Bid from Int Stores
Falls				
397p	158p	Ayer Hiltam	25p to 340p	Profit taking
936p	559p	BP	50p to 814p	US selling
150p	58p	Chas Hill	12p to 116p	Compensation statement
194p	82p	Ocean Wilsons	20p to 144p	Small selling
601p	24p	Peachey Prop	93p to 22p	Adverse rumours

## Election tremors • Takeover activity

Wednesday night's vote of confidence motion in the Commons created nervous conditions in the London stock market this week. Previous expectations of a strong run-up to the Budget taking the FT ordinary share index to around 450 were shattered by the Opposition's move and the uncertainty it generated.

Though Liberal support seems to have secured the Government's position at least until the late summer most market observers believe that the prospect of an election will play an increasing part in sentiment over the coming months. The City's view of the move was made plain on Monday when the FT index lost 14 points—its worst day for five weeks—and some gilt-edged stocks were lowered by £1.

The general opinion of doomsayers and the investing public was that the election would not be beneficial at all, particularly since it would put another round of incomes policy in grave danger. But the institutions tended to play a more restrained hand and there was little evidence to suggest that they were selling.

Once again the market demonstrated its resilience, by recovering Monday's losses in the next two days, as it became apparent that the Government would survive. But this was followed by end-of-account profit taking and at last night's close of 418.1 the index was 10.4 lower over the five days.

Gilt-edged stocks were similarly affected by the events at Westminster and there was some disappointment at yesterday's unchanged minimum lending rate, which ran counter to money market indications. But the event of the week was the heavy over-subscription of the new £200m 2½ per cent 1992 stock, which has created an attraction of an initial payment of only £15 per cent.

Now that it has been fully taken up it will not be used as a "tap" and yesterday it was traded heavily at a small premium.

In a market short of investment trading, bid and speculative stocks commanded a good deal of interest. An offer worth 33p a share by Pilkington Brothers for optical precision

## Stock markets

## Investors stay away ahead of Budget

Equities ended a difficult week on a quiet note and with no interest for the new account starting on Monday, most prices drifted lower throughout the session.

Though a little firmer in late trading, the FT Index was still 3.3 lower at 418.1 by the close, leaving it 10.4 lower over the week and just 2.3 higher over the account. Investors now seem quite happy to stay on the sidelines until the Budget in the hope of some clarification of the Government's economic strategy.

Shares of *Kode International* sprang to life again with a rise of 7p to 91p. Some still feel the group is a potential takeover candidate, even though talks with *Leeds* over a bid broke down earlier this year, after the chairman sold his stake and left the board. But the market thinks a bidder would have to offer a price considerably above the present price.

In the gilt-edged market, most of the interest centred on the new £200m 1992 stock, which saw a brisk trade throughout the day. The stock started the day at a small premium which was then lost. Later it rallied to five-sixteenths premium, but by the close had eased back again to £151, and just above the issue price.

Elsewhere, short dates were largely unchanged in spite of some disappointment at the unchanged M.L.R. "Loans" fared worse and by the end of the session some were off by as much as three-eighths of a point.

Among the "blue chips" there were some big falls with

Glaxo giving up 8p to 485p. Becton 6p to 442p. Fisons 4p to 333p and Unilever 2p to 486p.

A decision to look into paint prices brought weakness to the related issues. Among these, Dufay Bitumastic at 39p and Blundell Permeaglass at 42p both eased a point, but there were larger falls from *Leyland Paint* 3p to 43p and *KCI* where the drop was 2p to 360p.

Following results earlier in the week, there was a sudden speculative interest in *Ladbrokes*, where the shares put on no less than 14p for a close of 116p. *Wm Press* fell back 3p to 58p after a denial that it had received an approach and *Rathens*, after its recent strength, reacted a penny to 88p.

*Zenith Carbu* suddenly sprang to life with a gain of 10p to 86p on revived speculation, while recent comment and the prospect of figures soon to be released, brought a sharp rise in *Pork Farms*, where the shares gained a spectacular 16p to 193p.

A rights issue accompanied by a higher dividend helped *Leigh* interests to go ahead 6p to 60p.

The addition of their names to an Arab "blacklist" lowered both *Vickers* 5p to 171p and *Barclays Bank* 7p to 255p. *Ocean Wilsons* continued to be hit by small selling and ended 4p off at 174p, a drop of 20p over the week.

On the papers' pitch, *Beaverbrook* "A" lost 3p to 35p after a trading loss, but profits from *United Newspapers* pushed the shares up 2p to 264p. *De La Rue* continued to benefit from the Formica sale, gaining another 7p for a close of 380p.

In the electrical sector, figures from *Pye* brought some cheer and the shares gained 7p to 62p. *Callenclapp*, another with figures this week, gained another 4p to 190p, but closed 2p lower. There was a more subdued performance with *Hoover* "A" up 2p to 82p and *Thorn* "A" lower by 4p to 280p.

After several days of strong United States selling, oil shares had a steadier look but BP just 2p off at 814p and Shell unchanged at 488p. *Attock*, after news of the Arab holding, shot up 22p to 120p.

In spite of its tea purchase, *Tate & Lyle* lost 4p to 270p and elsewhere in foods *Booker* and *McConnell* continued to benefit from figures with a rise of 5p over the week, but *Patterson Zochonis* fell 5p to 200p.

*Mothercare* have risen 10p to 264p this week and outperformed the stores sector. A recent brokers' visit came away with optimistic views that the management is placing great emphasis on building up its United States operation.

Barclays apart, the clearing banks were weaker with both *National Westminster* 230p and *Midland* 275p, ending 5p off. *Standard* cleared for a second week with a drop of 10p to 325p.

In the insurance sector, *Sun Alliance* continued to fall ahead of figures, by 5p to 443p, but broker Matthews Wrightson did manage a gain of 2p to 244p.

Over in properties, *Peachey* made a partial recovery after the chairman's statement and closed a penny to the good at 22p. *Wentworth* Sunday also rose 2p to 146p, but *Chesterfield* lost 5p to 182p.

Equity turnover on March 24 was £93.24m (18,953 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday were *Booker*, *Wm Press*, *KCI*, *BP*, *Shell*, *BAT*, *Dunlop*, *Barclays*, *GMI*, *Dunlop*, *Becton*, *Ultramar*, *Kode International*, *Bourne* & *Hollingsworth*, *Pye*, *European Ferries*, *Zenith Carbu*, *Booker*, *McConnell* and *De Beers*.

Record results and an increased pay-off are coupled with a scrip issue from *Somerset* and *Leigh* EWWS, which is in bidding and placing. On sales up from £7.7m to £7.65m for 1976, pre-tax profits expanded from £971,000—the previous record—to £1.14m, the first time the firm has been able to exceed. Proposing a one-for-two scrip, the board is raising the total gross pay from 7.65p to 8.4p.

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## Pye's second-half rally regains lost ground

By Ashley Drucker

The second-half recovery predicted at electronics group *Pye* of Cambridge after the opening tumble (profits more than halved) helped it recoup all of the January and to finish 1976 with taxable earnings up 20 per cent to £13.08m. Turnover rose 14 per cent to £266.6m.

*Pye* of Cambridge, wholly-owned by *Pye Holdings*, which in turn is held 60 per cent effectively by the parent *Holdings*, is the main subsidiary of *Pye*.

The profit attributable to *Holdings*, after much higher tax, as forecast, was however down from £5.67m to £5.44m. The parent's attributable comes to £5.41m (against £5.62m), on which *Pye* has a 40 per cent share, after a lower appropriation to stock replacement reserve, work out at

10.6p (10p). The year's dividend is held at 4.46p gross.

Market response to the results was an 8p rise to 63p in the shares.

Recession at home and a slow-down overseas were the causes of the first-half setback, though the home and was largely to blame. It meant losses of about £2m for the UK consumer products division. The tale was chiefly one of over-capacity and tight margins.

Meanwhile *Pye* has sent out an explanatory document on the proposals for a major restructuring of its British activities. *Philips*, *Lamp*, the Dutch parent, proposes to transfer the consumer business of *Holdings* to its other major British subsidiary, *Philips Industries*. The aim is to leave *Pye* free to develop its large professional electronics operations.

**Sir James now steps out in Hongkong**

Sir James Goldsmith, head of *Generale*, has extended his financial interests to Hongkong.

At the annual meeting of the recently acquired *Oriental Financial Consultants*, he renamed this quoted company *Generale* Ltd. He and his associates held 77 per cent of the shares. He said he decided to create this sister company in Hongkong because of its liberal economic policies, lack of exchange control, strong currency, absence of artificial restraints and a reasonable tax base.

A key part of the arrangements is to inject overseas interests into the new company, which will be carried out with local partners.

**Wallis sticks to its guns despite BAT's 57pc stake**

Faced with *International Stores* £21m cash bid, the board of *F. J. Wallis* and advisers *Morgan Grenfell* have decided that the terms of 66p a share do not represent a fair valuation of the group. They will write to shareholders as soon as the formal documents have been sent out.

The purchase by *International Stores* of the 57 per cent holding of the *Wallis* family, *Trustees* and others has given it control of about 57 per cent of the equity. *Wallis* can but try to raise the price.

Last year *Wallis* managed to raise its profits by 34 per cent to a record £3.51m.

**CASTLEFIELD (KLANG)**

*Castlefield* (Klang) Rubber Estate reports turnover for half-year to December 31 up from £289,000 to £276,000. Pre-tax profits rose from £195,000 to £204,000.

**FEDERAL MYNBOU**

*Johannesburg*—Pre-tax profit for 1976 up from £40,800 to £109,700. Earnings per share, 85.6 cents increased capital (97.7 cents on 141). Results not comparable with 1975—*Reuter*.

**G. F. LOVELL**

Turnover for year to October 31, up from £2.3m to £2.4m. Group profit, £100,000, against loss of £38,000, after all charges. No dividend (same).

**COUNTRYSIDE PROPS**

*Countryside Properties* turnover for half-year to December 31, up from £2.3m to £2.4m. Earnings per share, 85.6 cents increased capital (97.7 cents on 141). Results not comparable with 1975—*Reuter*.

**CHARTERHOUSE JAPHET**

*Charterhouse Japhet's* offer for *Atlantic Shipping and Trading* is successful. The offer, which is for 93.04 per cent of ordinary stock units and 11.83 per cent of "A" units. Offers remain open.

**SOUTHAMPTON PACKET**

In 1976, pre-tax profits of *Southampton Packet* and *Southampton Packet* rose from £213,000 to £466,000. Total gross dividend raised from 11.4p to 12.5p.

**WANKIE COLLIERY COMPANY LIMITED**

(Incorporated in Rhodesia)

**DIVIDEND No. 105**

The directors today declared an interim dividend No. 105 in respect of the year ending 31st August, 1977 of 2½ cents per share, payable to shareholders registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 15th April, 1977. Dividend warrants will be posted on or about 12th May, 1977. The transfer registers in Rhodesia, the United Kingdom and South Africa will be closed from 16th to 22nd April, 1977 inclusive.

Rhodesian non-resident shareholders tax at the rate of 20 per cent will be deducted from the dividend where applicable. Estimated results for the half year ended 28th February, 1977, and the results for the year ended 31st August, 1976 are as follows:

	Half year ended 28th February, 1977	Year ended 31st August, 1976
SALES		
Coal (tonnes).....	1,240,815	2,496,132
Other (tonnes).....	109,083	211,227

RESULTS		
Trading profit, after charging depreciation interest and trustees' fees.....	\$2,014,000	\$3,365,000
Interest and dividends receivable.....	122,000	387,000
Profit before taxation.....	2,136,000	3,752,000
Deferred taxation.....	559,000	962,000
Profit after taxation.....	\$1,577,000	\$2,790,000
Interim dividend.....	\$633,000	\$633,000
(2½ cents)	(2½ cents)	(2½ cents)

This dividend is declared in the currency of Rhodesia. Payments from South Africa will be made in the South African equivalent of the Rhodesian value at the rate of exchange ruling at the close of business on 31st May, 1977.

In terms of exchange control regulations, payments of dividends due to members who are resident in the United Kingdom, Zambia and Tanzania, must be paid into blocked accounts in the shareholders' name with a registered commercial bank in Rhodesia.

Arrangements are being made for members normally paid from the United Kingdom and who are not resident in the United Kingdom, Zambia or Tanzania to be paid their dividend from Rhodesia.

By order of the Board  
ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION  
OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED  
Secretaries  
per D. H. A. Harrison

Office of the United Kingdom  
Transfer Secretaries:  
Charter Consolidated Limited,  
P.O. Box 102,  
Charter House,  
Park Street,  
Ashford, Kent  
TN24 8EQ

25th March, 1977

## Good first half from hopeful Henlys

With less than a week to the end of the first half-year at Henlys, Mr Gordon Chandler, chairman, told the annual meeting that pre-tax profits would grow to £1.4m over the period. This would compare with £434,000 a year ago and £1.46m for the second half of 1975-76.

The group is one of the biggest Leyland dealers, and "assuming that the supply position will be more stable than for some time past," Mr Chandler said that the full year should see a return to earlier levels of profit.

On the group's recovery he said that much had been achieved over the past two or three years in getting the group's activities to change, and the benefits of this should show in the years to come.

**Leigh rights cheer**

A rights issue on discount terms, the forecast of higher profits and the promise of a big rise in dividends hoisted the shares of *Leigh* interests by 6p to 60p yesterday. The issue, of 1.42m shares, will be at 42p each on a two-for-five basis raising about £582,000.

Pre-tax profits of this waste disposal and building specialist for the year to March 31 next are expected to be at least £560,000—a potential record—compared with £504,000 for 1975-76. Apart from a total dividend of 1.5p gross for 1976, 77—the maximum allowed—the board predicts a total of 5.5p for 1977-78 on the capital expansion.

**Wolf Tool bounds 29pc**

On the back of turnover rising from £11.2m to £14m, pre-tax profits of *Wolf Electric Tools* (Holdings) have jumped 29 per cent to record £23.9m for 1976. This is before adding

**Dividend boost gilds Brown Bros recovery**

Shareholders of *Brown Bros* are to get a dividend boosted from 0.92p to 1.48p. Profits continue to improve with a 14 per cent rise to £1.9m for 1976. This was achieved on turnover up 15 per cent to £58.5m. Thanks mainly to the better use of working capital, interest reduced for the third year running.

Earnings a share of the group, in which *Dana Corporation* (US) has a stake of over 63 per cent, increased from 63p to 2.04p. Sales and profits in the year are still ahead, and the trends are good.

Over 1976 most of the running was made in the second half with profits surging 25 per cent to £1.5m, against only 1 per cent at half-time.

**Bumper year and a bid from Yule Catto**

More than doubled pre-tax profits of £1.54m were achieved by *Yule Catto*, the rubber, oil palms and plastics group, for the year to October 31. Turnover went up from £5m to £8.7m. Earnings a share are 5.4p, against 2.66p, while the dividend is raised from 1.7p to 1.8p gross. These record results mainly reflect a bigger rubber crop.

The board also says that it has made an agreed offer for *Assam Consolidated Tea Estates* worth £233,600. It already has 38.7 per cent of the voting rights. The terms are 28p cash for each ordinary share and 100p cash for the preference.

**Barton & Sons**

With turnover rising 18 per cent to £36.9m for 1976, *Barton & Sons*, the rubber makers and engineers, has managed a 10 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits to a record £3.26m. Earnings a share are 10.85p (9.7p), while the dividend is raised from 4.09p to 4.49p gross. Mr C. Roper, the chairman, says it will be difficult to do as well this year.

**Wall Street**

New York, March 25.—Prices closed sharply lower on the New York Stock Exchange, falling late in the session on Bethlehem Steel's projection of an unprofitable first quarter.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 6.81 points at 328.10, its lowest since November 1976. Declining issues outnumbered gainers 900 to 490.

Volume was 16,550,000 shares. Bethlehem Steel was down 1 at 36½.

New York, March 25.—COFFEE closed sharply lower on the New York Stock Exchange, falling late in the session on Bethlehem Steel's projection of an unprofitable first quarter.

## Orme men cut their share control

By Ray Maughan

Mr Peter Whitfield, chairman, and fellow-joint-managing-director Mr Robert Turner, have cut their aggregate holdings in house-building *Orme Developments* from almost 48 per cent to just under 20 per cent.

The disposal was effected on Thursday by a placing with a number of institutions of 3.5 million shares at 31p each. The proceeds, which total around £1m, eliminate personal indebtedness of both directors.

Mr Turner explained yesterday that he can run this company better without this "gearing pressure". He incurs a small capital gains tax liability, but the bulk of his personal sale proceeds of £500,000 will be used to repay bank borrowing.

Their jobs were taken with a "large and important bank" in 1973 at the height of the property housing boom. The original term was two years with interest fixed at a percentage over the six months' inter-bank rate.

The company was to restore the two directors' initial 52 per cent holding which they established when the company was floated in 1970. Paper issued for other house-building companies diluted their control, against which they bought shares periodically in the market.

**Scrip from Relyon**

Record results and an increased pay-off are coupled with a scrip issue from *Somerset* and *Leigh* EWWS, which is in bidding and placing. On sales up from £7.7m to £7.65m for 1976, pre-tax profits expanded from £971,000—the previous record—to £1.14m, the first time the firm has been able to exceed. Proposing a one-for-two scrip, the board is raising the total gross pay from 7.65p to 8.4p.

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# Free vote on method of election to the European Parliament

## Foreign Exchange

## Foreign Exchange

An early advance yesterday by the dollar in Europe's currency markets inspired by climbing short-term Eurodollar interest rates, was generally lost by the close.

Sterling drifted down to \$1.777, a loss of 3 points after briefly trading around \$1.782 when the Bank of England posted an unchanged MLR of 10.5 per cent. The effective rate was unchanged at 61.8 per cent.

## Spot Position of Sterling

[illegible]

## Forward Levels

[illegible]

## Discount market

There was again a large shortage of fresh credit of Lombard Street yesterday though it proved rather less massive than on Thursday. The Bank of England dealt with the situation by offering high rates from the discount houses. It bought an exceptionally large amount of Treasury bills and small amounts of both local authority bills and "eligible" bank bills. In addition, the Bank lent a large amount of money to the Treasury (1½ per cent) to five or six houses.

The help may have been just a little overdone, allowing rates to come down in the closing stages to within a band of 8-9½ per cent. It is possible that the Bank will limit that had stuck with the houses for most of the day, while the Treasury has been able to get 10 per cent or 11 per cent during the morning.

It is likely that the market's favour was the only substantial source of money that had to be returned as the result of oversubscription

## Money Market Rates

[illegible]

Guille 24, 1967	..
Could 5, 1967	..

[illegible]

## Recent Issues

Recent Issues		Closing Price
Corp Ldn 12 <sup>1/2</sup> % 1983 (1984a)		\$124 1/2
E. Austins Wire 9 <sup>3/4</sup> % Rd Pl (a)		\$124 1/2
W. Worcester Wire 9 <sup>3/4</sup> % Rd Pl (a)		\$124 1/2
Fla Regional 12 <sup>1/2</sup> % 1983-86 (1984a)		\$124 1/2
F.F.I. 14 <sup>1/2</sup> % 1983 (1984a)		\$124 1/2
Fla. E. C. Gas 12 <sup>1/2</sup> % Rd Pl (a)		\$124 1/2
L.L.C. 12 <sup>1/2</sup> % 1984 (1984a)		\$124 1/2
Maricopa Valley San Exp Ltd		\$124 1/2
Missouri of Gas 12 <sup>1/2</sup> % Rd Pl (a)		\$124 1/2
Lee Valley Wire 9 <sup>3/4</sup> % Rd Pl (a)		\$124 1/2
<b>RIGHTS ISSUES</b> Latest date of return Apr 22		8 prints

Issue price in parentheses. \* Ex dividend.  
 Issued by tender. S Nil paid. A CIP paid B \$20 paid.

**SPONG AND CO**

**SPONG AND CO** --  
Turnover for 1976 up from  
£2.42m to £2.82m. and pre-tax  
profits from £198,000 to £258,000.

## Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank	101%
Consoldated Credits	111%
First London Sec's	11½%
C. Hoare & Co ...	*101%
Lloyds Bank ....	101%
Midland Bank ..	102%
Nat Westminster	103%
Rossminster Acc's	11½%
Shenley Trust ...	14%
Williams & Glyn's	101%

\* 7 day deposits on sums of  
£10,000 and under, 6¼%,  
up to £25,000, 7¾% over  
£25,000, 7½%.

**M. J. H. NIGHTINGALE & CO. LIMITED**  
52-53 Threadneedle Street, London, EC2D 8HP. Tel: 01 628 8651

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	Yld	P/E
35	27	Airsprung	35	-	4.2	12.0	6.9
118	100	Airsprung 18 1/2 CULS	118	-	18.5	15.7	-
32	25	Armatae & Rhodes	28	-	3.0	10.7	-
114	95	Deborah	96	+1	8.2	8.5	4.8
122	104	Deborah 1 7/8 CULS	115	+2	17.5	15.2	5.7
65	55	Henry Sykes	49	-	2.2	4.5	5.7
81	55	James Burrough	-1	-	6.0	7.5	12.7
234	188	Robert Jamies	234	-	25.0	10.7	5.2
24	8	Twinnock	14	-	-	-	-
67	54	Twinnock 12% ULS	61	+1	12.0	19.7	-
63	51	Unilock Holdings	54	-1	6.1	11.3	6.8
74	65	Walter Alexander	72	-	5.8	8.1	8.1

### Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

[illegible]

## Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]

## House of Commons

Many MPs were fed up with the dithering of the Government over direct elections to the European Parliament. Mr Peter Mills of West Yorkshire expressed a feeling that the House, bearing in mind the Government's repeated pledges to do the best endeavours to bring about direct elections by May or June, 1978, should authorize the four Boundary Commissions to begin work forthwith.

Mr Mills said that the Government were the urgency of the situation, the failure of the Government to make up their minds, the fact that the Home Office and counties to be represented in an elected European Parliament were not for Britain to start to become good members of the European club and play their part in a constructive way.

There was a strong reaction to the said motion with the Minister. Many of us are fed up with the dithering of the Government.

It is this motion the said Minister put a spanner in the works every time its national interest is at odds with the interests of others

dangerous in both places.

For instance, because of discussions at Westminster last week, the Government have been in a cession on the EEC farm proposals in Luxembourg last week. I have been under such pressure that they got into a procedural mess. He understood there would be a vote on the subject of a shorty after Easter. Then the Government would make a recommendation. But it was clear that the Government would be in the Bill or that it would come before the Bill. He thought the House could take a decision in principle.

It could well be that the Government were drawing up a plan to get the Bill through even three European elections for 10 or 15 years. It was essential to get it right, but in getting it right, they were not sure they would not be faced at the end of the day with what virtually a fait accompli by Government. He was not sure this or you lose the Bill.

Mr Richard Mitchell (South

He realized a Bill  
but, as I have said, for

Mr. Michael Stewart (Hammer-smith, Fulham, Lab) said that opposition to direct elections at this stage was as futile as opposition to membership of the Community itself. Britain was in the Community to stay.

"If we cannot," he said, "we must accept the obligation of being in. Cooperating in bringing about direct elections to the Parliament is a duty which we must accept on entry. If we keep Europe waiting, we shall have broken a pledge to this House, to the country, and to the European people."

Mr Jeremy Thorpe (North Devon, L) said Britain had got an extra seat in the European Parliament of the future for Northern Ireland and that it was a bonus rather than two, were more likely to produce a representative of the Roman Catholics there.

SUGGESTION: The Roman Catholics would not get it through out a guillotine. He hoped, over the time frame for that, the guillotine would not start playing gas and arguing the constituents would not have to wait for the guillotine.

It was essential to the hope of the country that the guillotine not seem to be the one, m. delaying the target date of 1978.

Philip Whitbread (Dorset, Philp. Lab) said he was ashamed supporter of the principle of direct elections. We must not let the entry of the country into the Community be saying that there is no case for not sending the democratic principle to the European Parliament as to other forum in which we are to check the national, regional, and local authorities. The stronger European Parliament must assert itself vis-a-vis the Council.

**Catholic community**  
third of the support

to guarantee under the first-past-the-post that they would get a third of the seats? No, so the Government started to think of proportional representation in Northern Ireland and first-past-the-post in Britain where they thought they could get away with it. He thought it had been dropped.

The quickest system  
proportional represe

no one could deny that it would be the fairest system.

Mr Brynmor John, Minister of State, Home Office (Footpathrid, 10.30), said the Government had decided to publish the White Paper, so that the House could debate the important matters that they called for a decision before they were reduced into legislative form. The White Paper would be published on Wednesday that the White Paper would be published next week.

The introduction of legislation on this session was the objective with which the Home Office and Opposition would agree. The dispute was about how the fulfilment of the aim could be best

mitted to vote against the principle of direct elections were a major part of Government policy. It would be a breach of faith and a clear sign of a lapse of authority.

What was coming was no White Paper, but a Green Paper, which would be open to public comment and would be the basis of a new Government.

We would resist it (he said) simply by delay, the Government had ruled out or preannounced the introduction of the Select Committee presented six months ago. I do not accept it is too late to proceed in any way.

The motion assumes

that the matter is so clear in the light of the Select Committee's findings that it should be introduced without further discussion. But the Government believe that a further White Paper is necessary.

The Government would listen to the debate on the White Paper and make the recommendation in the light of the evidence, for example, on the question of proportional representation.

None should underestimate the importance of this matter. It would be a step of serious constitutional importance. The Government decide that would follow the decision should not be underestimated.

The more I and the Home Secretary have thought into this matter, the more I am convinced that the following-up decisions to be made. They are not as simple as it might seem. There are several important points that are of great importance.

First, the Government believe that the future survival of the United Kingdom would be affected by any change in the way in which elections came from the European federalists. They saw them as the basis for the extension of the European Union. They saw the structure in place by Greece and Turkey entered. EEC, and before the national elections, some of the most important controlling what their minds did in Brussels.

Mr Paul Channon (South-West, C) said if there was to be a referendum, it should be preceded by Speaker's Conference and attempt should be made to get agreement on the way in which the Government introduced it through a Bill like that on elections.

Mr Nigel Fisher (Kingston-upon-Thames, S) said that the Government should be aware of the fact that the Government introduced it through a Bill like that on elections.

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The two most import

system of voting and the question of the relationship and accountability of directly elected representatives to the House of Commons. The House must express its views on those matters.

Mr. Peter Kerr (New South Wales) said that the parties (he said) favour the PR method of election. We, therefore, believe that it is sensible to allow Parliament to direct elections in that mode of election and finally decide this by a free vote of the House of Commons.

Mr. John Scahill (Queensland) said that the party in favour of the house before the Boundary Commissions could be set to work some matters must be decided. He said that he would support the electoral system should any. Another question was how many seats there were to be in the House of Representatives. The motion sought to preempt a decision of the House and it was an impossible task. It was not given terms of reference.

Mr. Peter Kerr (Saffron Walden, Cambridgeshire) said that the proceedings had not been good enough. He said that the House of Commons, and to some extent, of the House of Lords, had been disrupted by the overlapping man-

representation.

Mr. Nigel Speer (New South Wales) said that so far there had been no commitment by the Government to the principle of direct elections. Not only had Parliament not yet given its consent in relation to direct elections, in submission the British people have never been given an opportunity to debate the issues.

Mr. John Scahill said that he could give the House of Commons reference in the Prime Minister's statement on Wednesday referred to in a speech about what system of election should be adopted.

Following publication and discussion of the White Paper and the Government's proposals, which have been made under the said, the Government will co-ordinate with a final recommendation of the House of Commons which take full account of the Liberal Party commitment on the subject.

This recommendation will be made to the House of Commons of both Houses of Parliament.

The debate was adjourned.

Mr. Peter Kerr (Saffron Walden, Cambridgeshire) said that Mr. (Gordon) Birt would read a second motion.

# Combating hooliganism by football supporters

Ernest Lynn Gould (Southampton, N. Y.) raised in the adjournment debate the avalanche of protest against the actions of Gould. He has received from constituents describing a scene and shameful display of incidents during the manufacturer's visit to the Southampton in the F.A. Cup on February 28.

It was thought to be possible to restrict the sale of away match tickets perhaps to the town of Southampton, but the F.A. refused to allow such travel for supporters to be censured, for consumption of alcohol in the clubs was banned and for coaches to arrive and depart an hour before the start of the match.

He would advise anyone who had suffered damages from incidents arising out of such matches to write to the F.A. and inform the police authorities under the 1886 Riot Damages Act. They would enormous check to place the blame on the F.A. and the Government would be compelled to take some action.

Mr. Brynmor John, Minister of Agriculture, said that he had been in conference with chief officers of police mainly responsible for measures to combat disturbances. He had also collected from other departments had also met representatives of the Football Associations.

It was his opinion that the matter was best sorted out by those most closely concerned with the clubs, supporters' clubs and transport undertakings.

He would be glad to hold another meeting with the interested parties to review progress and to discuss any negotiations necessary.

The time may have passed for the Government to make compensation to be made under the Riot Damages Act. But he would advise anyone who had suffered damages from such incidents to write to the police authorities so he would not like to prejudice this issue.

It was high time parents and teachers should be made aware of the danger to their children. They should give their children the sort of upbringing and example that would prevent the pleasure of sport and take out the gladiatorial aspect.

House adjourned, 4.30 p.m.



## Stock Exchange Prices

## Quiet end to the account

Account Days : Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, April 7. § Contango Day, April 12. Settlement Day, April 20  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.**

هكذا من الأحول

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**"...probably the finest  
short course in the world"**  
THE FINANCIAL TIMES

Apply now for the SEPT 77 Course to Mrs Sylvia Priestley,  
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[illegible]







# Holidays and Hotels in Great Britain & Ireland

## West Country

**ST. MAWES**  
CORNWALL  
SHIP AND CASTLE HOTEL  
Magnificent position on the waterfront. Exceptional value offered for our opening season. Write for brochure or telephone ST. MAWES 401.

LANGUAGES? MUSIC? LACE? RAMBLING?

**OLDE WORLDE COTTAGE**  
The beautiful cottage is situated in the heart of the village of St. Austrey, Devon. It is a charming stone cottage with a thatched roof and a large garden. It is available for hire from May to September. Tel: 0300 233630.

**ORWELL COLANT** - Beautiful holiday home in the heart of the village of Orwells, Devon. It is a charming stone cottage with a thatched roof and a large garden. It is available for hire from May to September. Tel: 0300 233630.

**OUTRIDGE** - Country farm house, 1000 sq. ft., with 10 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, and a large garden. It is available for hire from May to September. Tel: 0300 233630.

**IVES** - Luxury holiday home in the heart of the village of Ives, Devon. It is a charming stone cottage with a thatched roof and a large garden. It is available for hire from May to September. Tel: 0300 233630.

**FORREST** - Holiday home in the heart of the village of Forrest, Devon. It is a charming stone cottage with a thatched roof and a large garden. It is available for hire from May to September. Tel: 0300 233630.

**ORWELL COLANT** - Beautiful holiday home in the heart of the village of Orwells, Devon. It is a charming stone cottage with a thatched roof and a large garden. It is available for hire from May to September. Tel: 0300 233630.

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## Scotland

### CULAG HOTEL

Built early 19th century as a summer residence for the Duke of Sutherland, a delightful hotel in an idyllic setting on the shore of Lochinver Bay. The building has been recently renovated and is now one of Scotland's most attractive hotels. 84 bedrooms, 25 bathrooms, and a swimming pool. Tel: Lochinver (05714) 209.

### SEAMILL HYDRO

Value for money family holiday home in the heart of the village of Seamill, Scotland. It is a charming stone cottage with a thatched roof and a large garden. Tel: 0300 233630.

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